





# BA aims to save £150m by cuts

British Airways will save £150m in the coming year because of a tough retrenchment plan now being implemented, Mr Roy Watts, the chief executive, disclosed yesterday. (Michael Bailey writes.) However the measures, including staff reductions, route cancellations and aircraft sales, will be too late to affect the 1981-2 results which are expected to show a £200m-£250m loss after last year's deficit of £141m.

They could be followed by a new round of rigorous steps, including the possible sale of profitable subsidiaries as Sir John King, chairman, steers the airline towards the private sector.

Staff cuts now look like exceeding last year's target of 15,000 (down from 58,000 in 1979), according to Mr Watts, and of 16 international routes to be cancelled, nine have already gone and the remaining seven go next week. Sales of more than 20 aircraft are nearly complete; and the new Scottish division with reduced manning levels and improved working practices has been set up.

## Five for trial on hijack charges

Five Tanzanians were committed for trial by Chelmsford magistrates yesterday charged with hijacking a Air Tanzania Boeing 737 which landed at Stansted airport four weeks ago. The five, all from Dar-es-Salaam, are Yassin Membar, aged 21, unemployed, Moses Lee Membar, aged 24, a taxi driver, Mohamed Ali Abdallah, aged 25, a tyre fitter, Abdallah Ali Abdallah, aged 21, a student, and Mohamed Tahir Ahmed, aged 21, also a student.

The men, who were granted an extension to their legal aid will face trial at Chelmsford Crown Court.

## Singer wins ban on BBC film

A judge yesterday banned the BBC from screening a 60-minute television documentary next Friday on a singing tour of the Highlands and islands by Calum Kennedy, the Gaelic singer.

Mr Kennedy had told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that he feared the programme would be a send-up of his tour, not a serious documentary. He alleged that he was deceived by Mr Michael Begg, the BBC producer. Lord Wylie granted an interim interdict against the film's screening next week.

## Bomb found at ambush house

A 10lb bomb was found yesterday at the house used by the killers who ambushed three soldiers in Belfast on Thursday (our Belfast Correspondent writes). It had been left to inflict further casualties.

The alarm was raised when a call was received by the Samaritans late on Thursday saying that there was a bomb on the premises. The area was evacuated and Army experts defused the device.

## Job offers for sit-in workers

Most workers involved in a two month occupation at the Plessey factory in Bathgate, which ended this week, are to be re-employed by Arcotronics, a new firm which is taking over the factory. Agreement on the 80 jobs was reached yesterday. Mrs Ina Scott, shop steward, said: "Seventy-two people who took part in the sit-in are being offered jobs."

## Talbot strike is called off

The strike which has halted all Talbot UK car production for the past three weeks ended yesterday after a deal worked out at talks under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) was accepted by the workers (Clifford Webb, Midlands Industrial Correspondent, writes).

Although the dispute involved only 190 paint shop workers most of the company's 4,000 manual workers had been laid off.

## Forgery charge detective cleared

A detective inspector was cleared yesterday at Winchester Crown Court of trying to pervert the course of justice.

Det. Inspector Robin Napper, formerly of Thames Valley police, had denied removing a word from a witness statement and uttering a forged document intended to be used in evidence with the intention to deceive.

Mr Napper, who had been promoted and transferred to New Scotland Yard, was suspended last June.

## CORRECTION

The boys shown playing cricket in yesterday's photograph were from Westminster Abbey Choir School, not Westminster School.

# Navy to close hovercraft trials station

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The Royal Navy is closing its hovercraft trials unit on the South coast, virtually bringing to an end 20 years of experimental work by the Armed Forces with the all-British invention.

One of the craft, a BH-7, will be kept in operation to help the British Hovercraft Corporation in an export drive, with most of the running costs met by the corporation.

Yesterday's announcement by the Ministry of Defence came only three days after the decision to close seven naval training bases and make 4,000 sailors redundant. But the ministry said last night that the reasons this time were only partly financial. Another was simply that the unit had done as much as it could.

The decision will be controversial because some people feel the Forces should help more to promote a British development, and because other navies, including that of the Soviet Union, have apparently seen the hovercraft's potential.

The ministry said that a hovercraft design was still among those under consideration for a new class of minehunter. Because of its special characteristics the hovercraft is relatively invulnerable to mines.

British military interest in hovercraft began with the establishment of a tri-service trials unit in 1962. But early results suggested that its advantages as a coastal or amphibious vehicle were balanced by disadvantages, and the Army and RAF withdrew in 1974, leaving the Navy to continue on its own.

The 100 sailors who man the unit at HMS Dædalus at Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, will disperse to other postings during the next few months and the three remaining hovercraft, a VT-2 and two SRN-6s, will be sold. There was a third SRM-6 which went to Hongkong in 1979 to help in the campaign to curb illegal immigrants, but it crashed on rocks in January and was damaged beyond repair.

The first criticism of the decision came last night from Mr Keith Speed, Conservative MP for Ashford and a former Navy minister, who said: "In the last month we have heard of the sale of the Jetfoil, the carrier HMS Invincible, and now this." It was another case of Britain inventing something and then handing it on a plate to someone else.

Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, South, a member of the Commons defence committee, was critical of another decision by the ministry which was confirmed last night.

That was the cut in local overseas allowances (LOAs) paid to troops in the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR). The reductions will vary between 10 and 27 per cent. The allowances compensate servicemen and their families for any rise in the cost of living when serving abroad. At one time the allowances paid to troops in BAOR were considerable.

The justification for them has declined as inflation on Britain has caught up with other countries and in some cases passed them. Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said yesterday that the cut was clearly justified after a review.

Most servicemen regard LOAs as one of the perquisites of serving abroad and the decision will be unpopular — which is why the Government is phasing in the reduction over nine months.

## Whitelaw urges councils to give lead on law

From Ronald Kershaw, Harrogate

Local authorities should give a lead to the public in working with the police and not against them, Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, said at Harrogate yesterday.

Some socialists in positions of local responsibility rarely seemed to reflect the opinions of ordinary people who had to live on crime-ridden streets, he said.

Mr Whitelaw was replying to a debate on law and order at the annual Conservative Central Council meeting and if he was seeking support or his proposals to extend police powers, he received an overwhelming vote of confidence from those attending.

Indeed, even those opposing the motion complaining of the imbalance of consideration extended to criminals rather than their victims, only did so because they considered that the measures he proposed did not go far enough.

Mr Whitelaw gave a resume of the action taken by the Government to improve the lot of the police: increasing police efficiency, extending the prison building programme and generally fulfilling the Government's manifesto proposals.

Mr Whitelaw said: "We are working against the background of an increasingly violent world. The police, the courts and the law and order service are faced with picking up the pieces in a society where too many individuals have turned to crime."



The St Albans Venus went back on public show at the town's Verulamium Museum yesterday amid new security precautions after the statue was stolen twice and returned by thieves who could not sell it (Stewart Tandler writes).

The Venus, dating from AD100, was first stolen in 1967. Although it is valued at £25,000 the thieves had difficulty in selling such a well-known piece and soon after it vanished it reappeared on the doorstep of Mr Gordon Davies, the museum director. Ten years later, it was stolen again and vanished for six months until Mr Davies (photographed holding replicas of the statue by Peter Trevnor) got an anonymous telephone call telling him where the Venus had been abandoned.

# In victory, magnanimity



Mr Jenkins and his wife during their "thank you" drive through Hillhead yesterday

## Jenkins aims at local polls

From Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent, Hillhead

Mr Roy Jenkins celebrated yesterday his victory in the by-election at Glasgow, Hillhead, and the first birthday of the Social Democratic Party by predicting a revival in the SDP-Liberal Alliance's fortunes.

"We have a very good chance of winning very substantial victories in the regional and local elections," he told a press conference at his headquarters hotel in Glasgow. The forthcoming by-election in the Conservative stronghold of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, would, he admitted, be hard to win, "but none the less all possibilities are open again."

Any majority would have been good enough, of course, but there will be some disappointment that it was not larger and that Mr Jenkins did not nudge closer to a 40 per cent share of the votes cast.

Mr Jenkins said that the Conservative and Labour parties were anxious to keep the alliance out of the political running, adding: "I would make no further predictions at whose expense we would do better in the future." Hillhead had been a blow for both the old monopoly parties. "I heard Mr Benn describe it on television as a marvellous result for the Labour Party," he said. "If Mr Benn thinks it is a marvellous result for the Labour Party, let up hope we have many more of them."

He pledged the SDP to work for a Liberal victory at Beaconsfield in June just as the Liberals had campaigned with the SDP in Hillhead.

"This is in no way an alliance of opportunism, but an alliance of principle," he added. "We agree on all the main issues of politics far more than do the different wings of either the Labour or Conservative parties."

He appealed for Liberals and Social Democrats to put behind them any damaging mutual suspicion that might exist. "Together, we are formidable," he said.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said that he would work with whoever was chosen to be the future alliance prime minister. I contrasted the autocratic power wielded by Labour and Conservative prime ministers, he added, a future alliance government would have much more of a team leadership.

A glorious occasion for the alliance in St Andrews was made the more so by yet another day of spring sunshine. "It's a beautiful day in every sense of the word," Mr Steel said.

The weather did not tempt many delegates outside; St Andrews town hall was packed to capacity all day for debates on devolution, higher education, and other issues.

Mr David Bannett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union and chairman of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, said that Labour's showing in the by-election reflected the gains made at the party's conference in Bishop's Cleeve, Shropshire, last year. (Our Labour Correspondent writes.)

"Last December, before Bishop's Cleeve," he said "the result would not have been as good as this. This country reflected through the country would narrowly give a Labour Government."

There was much work to be done, but with the help of the trade unions, a Labour victory in the next general election would be achieved.

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### GLASGOW HILLHEAD

Jenkins, Roy (SDP-Lib)	10,106
Malcolm G. C.	8,068
Wiseman, D. P. (Lab.)	7,846
Leslie, G. (SNP)	3,416
Gass, J. (Protestant against Pappal visit)	388
Johnston, R. (Scott-Dean)	282
Carlaw, N. A. (Ecology)	178
Boaks, W. G. (Public Safety)	5
Majority	2,038
1982	1978 Change
Con	26.6 41.0 -14.4
SDP-Lib	18.9 24.4 -5.5
SNP	11.3 14.4 -3.1
Lab	11.3 10.1 +1.2
Other	39.888 39.793 -1.05
Swing: Conservative to Alliance	18.7%
Labour to Alliance	13.1%
General election, May, 1979	Glasgow Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106
1979	10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106
2002	10,106; Hillhead 10,106; Hillhead 10,106

## Hillhead victor thanks his allies

Mr Roy Jenkins went to St Andrews, Fife, yesterday afternoon to thank the Scottish Liberals for their part in his by-election victory.

The Scottish party's conference gave him a standing ovation as he looked forward to an alliance government after the next general election. "We have a unique opportunity, such as has not occurred for 60 years past," he said. "If we let it slip now, we would not forgive ourselves and the public would not forgive us."

In Hillhead the alliance appeal had drawn people together rather than driving them apart. His votes had come from the Labour stronghold of "down by the riverside" and from the Conservative camp "up on the hill".

It had been a policy election. "People had attended public meetings, not to cheer and jeer but to listen and think." The alliance had got through to them that its policies were clearer, and more relevant, than those of the "dead end" traditional parties.

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## SHAKING OF HEAD 'LED TO DEATH'

The practice by young people of shaking their heads in time to music at rock concerts led to the death of a schoolboy, an inquest in Wolverhampton was told yesterday.

Christopher Hyer, aged 15, who lived in Griffiths Drive, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, was "head banging" at a concert given by the group Saxon in Wolverhampton Civic Hall.

When he woke up next day he had lost his speech and was suffering from partial paralysis of his right side.

The exaggerated head movements at the concert were the primary cause of his death," Dr Shirley Ward, a pathologist, told the inquest.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded on the boy who died from brain injuries on Christmas Day.

## New drive to seize drug profits urged

From John Chatter, Preston

Worldwide moves to deprive drug traffickers of the proceeds of their crimes may follow from a three-day conference of the United Kingdom police officers' colleagues from Europe and the United States, and senior Customs and Excise and Home Office officials.

The conference, organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers, was chaired by Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, who said afterwards: "The main conclusions were that measures must be taken internationally to ensure that those convicted of drug offences should be deprived of their proceeds and not be allowed to salt them away."

Mr Brian Bubbear, head of the Home Office drugs branch, and a conference delegate, is to report the conclusions to Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary.

Mr Peter Curting, chief investigation officer of the Customs and Excise, told the conference, in Preston, Lancashire, that the Swiss government was taking effective action to recover money banked by drug traffickers in numbered accounts.

He gave some details of a recent operation in Switzerland in which a large sum acquired through drug trafficking and deposited in a Swiss numbered account had been seized.

He said that the United States Government was exercising similar powers and the Canadian Government was likely to do so shortly. The seizure of profits should not be confined to cash deposits if they are thought to be extended to such investments as property.

Mr Oxford said: "We must get hold of everything they try to salt away."

# Ethics of test-tube births to be studied

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Cor

The Council for Science and Society announces in a letter to *The Times* today that it has set up a working party to study the social, ethical and legal implications of existing and emerging techniques for human reproduction.

The council, which is a group of scientists, lawyers, academics and other professional people concerned with the impact of advances in science and medicine, is the third body to set up such a working party. The others are the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

A report from a working party of the British Council of Churches and the Free Church Federal Council last week called for a public inquiry into such issues, saying that they were not purely medical matters and as such should not be left solely to medical men.

The announcement by the Council for Science and Society comes the day after the news that the first test-tube twins conceived in Britain have been born in Ontario, Canada. They are the world's second test-tube twins.

The mother, Mrs Kit Rankin, received treatment last year at the Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge, run by Dr Robert Edwards and Dr Patrick Steptoe, the test-tube baby pioneers.

The clinic said yesterday that the babies, both boys, were fit and well, although they were born prematurely.

Mrs Rankin, a high school English teacher, gave birth at a Hospital in Oakville, near Toronto. Mr Steptoe was present at the birth because he had stopped in Toronto on his way back from a conference in the United States.

Like other patients at Bourn Hall, Mrs Rankin returned home after having a successful egg transplant in her womb. The actual births of test-tube babies carry no extra risks than babies conceived in the normal way and usually take place at the patient's local obstetric hospital.

The boys have been named Colin Patrick Hugh and Gregory Fober Ian. Their father, Mr Ian Rankin, is a Canadian businessman.

About 30 test-tube babies have been born in the world: in Britain, Australia and the United States. There are at least 60 more pregnancies in Britain.

Test-tube twins are also expected by Mrs Jo Smith, from Stockport, Cheshire, who was treated for infertility by Professor Ian Craft at the Royal Free Hospital, north London. The world's first test-tube twins were born in Australia last June.

The high rate of twins among test-tube births is due to the fact that doctors often attempt to increase the chance of the woman retaining one embryo.

Ninety per cent of women going to Bourn Hall have an egg successfully removed, 90-95 per cent of them have the egg successfully fertilized but only one in five of the remainder manage to retain the fertilized egg when it is reimplanted.

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## Prisoner absconds

Timothy Albert Newey, aged 23, of Brierley Hill, West Midlands, absconded from Sudbury open prison, Derbyshire, yesterday. He is serving six months and is the eleventh prisoner to abscond from the prison this year.

Source: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

## June 24 to be first national arts day

By Christopher Warman, Arts Correspondent

Plans for the first national arts day on June 24, launched to celebrate the glories of the arts in Britain, have received support from the Government.

In a letter to *The Times* today a group of backers for the celebration led by Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy of Arts, welcomed the encouragement given to it by Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, who in a parliamentary answer wished the day a "successful launch".

The new day of celebration, which will not be a Bank holiday, emerged from a suggestion by the Turner Society that something should be done to commemorate the fact that Turner and Shakespeare, two of the greatest English artists, were born on St George's Day, April 23. The idea grew, but the day was quickly changed to Midsummer's Day after Scottish and Welsh arts bodies pursued their collective lips at the thought of St George's Day.

Sir Hugh, who chaired the first steering group for the festival, said after the birthday discoveries it was decided "Let's have a party. We expected the first arts day would start modestly and hoped it would grow into a big annual event."

Enthusiasm for the first celebration suggests it will not be a small affair. Mr Al

# Mariners' clue to collapse of fisheries

By the Staff of "Nature"

The routine weather observations of a couple of generations of sailors, sweltering off the coasts of Africa and South America, have been marshalled by a group of French oceanographers into important evidence which may affect much of the world's fishing industry.

The scientists, from the Natural History Museum of Paris, the French third world research agency (ORSTOM), and the physical oceanography laboratory at Brest, were interested in the collapse a few years ago of the Peruvian anchovy industry, when the harvest fell sevenfold in one year.

The cause was a sudden change in ocean currents. The Peruvian fisheries (and many others around the world, particularly in equatorial regions, depend on an upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water from the bottom of the ocean. The nutrients feed plankton; the plankton feed the fish; and the fish feed people. In the case of Peru, the fish also feed billions of seabirds, which create guano deposits accounting for a phosphate industry of world importance.

Unfortunately, the currents are unstable; they can change rapidly and massively, so killing the fish which, even if the current eventually returns, takes years to re-establish themselves.

The great oceanographic puzzle is: what causes these changes? Some say there must be local causes; others that long-range waves, acting across whole oceans, can play a part. The French research has shown that at least in one case, the effect is very long-range and, moreover, that the changes in current can be predicted a month in advance.

The current in question was the upwelling in the Gulf of Guinea, the armpit of West Africa. The French team looked at the records of merchant ships plying off Brazil and in the Gulf from 1911 to 1962. The seamen had recorded the surface temperature of the ocean and the strengths of the winds. In present study, the temperature was taken to be an indication of the strength of upwelling; if cold, it would be strong; if warm, weak.

The team discovered no connection between wind strength in the Gulf and the upwelling. But amazingly, the winds off Brazil were connected. If the off-shore Brazilian winds fell slack, then one month afterwards the Gulf of Guinea current failed and warm water replaced the cold.

The precise explanation for the connexion is still to be found, but mathematical oceanographers are not without theories that can be made to fit the case. Large-scale rotational waves called Kelvin waves, which run along coastlines and affect upwelling currents, may be influenced by deep-ocean waves, which in turn are affected by wind stress.

A chain such as that may connect events off the Brazilian coast to the Gulf of Guinea. Similarly, winds in the central Pacific might be the cause of El Niño, the failure of the Peruvian upwelling is called. The knowledge of such connexions will not halt the events that follow, but they may at least give a few weeks warning of impending disaster.

Source: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris. © Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

No ban on bogus degree

The Government's intention to introduce a ban on bogus degrees is being questioned by the University of London. The university's Senate has decided to continue to accept degrees from institutions which are not recognized by the Government.

What, however, is the point of a ban on bogus degrees? The Senate of the University of London has decided to continue to accept degrees from institutions which are not recognized by the Government.

President of the Federal factors' Federation one and there pressures for large



## Mariners' clue to collapse of fisheries

By the Staff of "Nature"

The routine weather observations of a couple of sailors off the coast of Africa and South America have been marshalled by a group of French oceanographers into an important clue to the collapse of the world's fisheries.

The scientists, from the natural history Museum of Paris, the French Institute for Research in Oceanography (IFREMER), and the physical oceanography laboratory at Brest, were interested in the collapse of the Peruvian fishery, which has been a major source of food for the world's population.

The cause was a sudden change in ocean currents, which brought cold, nutrient-rich water from the bottom of the ocean to the surface. This caused the plankton to die, and the fish to starve.

Unfortunately, the change was not noticed until it was too late. The fishery collapsed, and the world's population was left without a major source of food.

The great oceanographic puzzle is what causes these changes. Some say it is a change in the wind, which can push the water around. Others say it is a change in the temperature of the water, which can cause the plankton to die.

The current in question was the upwelling in the Gulf of Guinea. The French team found that the upwelling was much stronger than it had been in 1962. The cause was a change in the wind, which pushed the water around.

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## Anger over tactics on teachers' pay

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

Local authority leaders are so angry about the Department of Education and Science's tactics during the Burnham negotiations on teachers' pay on Thursday that they have given formal notice to the Government that they wish to abolish, or radically amend, the 17-year-old "concordat" that lays down the ground rules for negotiations on the management side.

Under the concordat, it is agreed that details of the proceedings on the management panel of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, will not be disclosed in public or even to the teachers' panel.

The concordat also stipulates that the two department representatives on the management panel of 27 will have a weighted vote equal to 15 seats. In addition, they are empowered to veto any pay award that the secretary of the Secretary of State considers to be too large.

During the lengthy closed-door meeting of the Burnham management panel on Thursday, the Department of Education first used its 15 votes to defeat, with the help of Association of Metropolitan Authorities (AMA), a proposal by the Association of County Councils (ACC) to increase the employers' pay rates for teachers from 3.4 to 4.5 per cent.

The AMA objected to the 4.5 per cent on the ground that it was too low and would unlikely be accepted by the teachers. The department, however, voted against it because it was too high and too far outside the Government's 4 per cent pay limit.

Then, when the AMA agreed to support a later ACC proposal for a 3.9 per cent increase on condition that the ACC agree to go to arbitration should the proposal be defeated, the department used the veto to block the 3.9 per cent offer. They also voted, though unsuccessfully, against arbitration.

So the teachers were never officially offered more than 3.4 per cent, and under the terms of the concordat, no one should be offered anything more than that which was ever considered.

The teachers' 11 to 12 per cent claim now goes to arbitration. The recommendation of the arbitration panel is binding on both sides.

The local authorities feel that they have been left looking foolish, and many are angry. The concordat is not good for relations with the teachers' union. They also feel that it is futile to waste so much time over negotiation among themselves, only to find that the Government's veto at the end of the day.

Schools throughout the country were returning to normal yesterday, after more than three weeks of disruption. In some cases, as teachers called off their industrial action, having obtained their goal of getting their claim referred to arbitration.

Only in Lincolnshire, north Yorkshire, Mid-Glamorgan, Calderdale and Croydon were sanctions still being imposed by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers in protest against what it claims were anti-union activities by those authorities during the dispute.

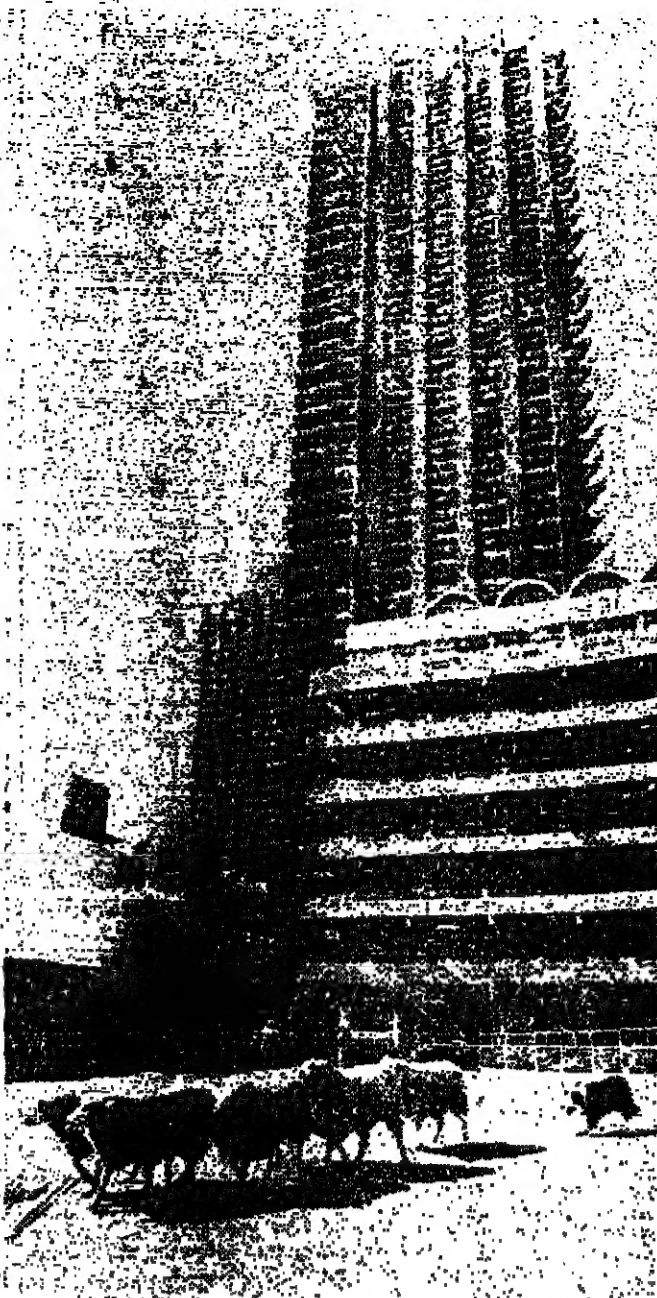
**No ban on sale of bogus degrees**

The Government has no intention of the foreseeable future of introducing legislation to ban the sale of bogus degrees and other educational qualifications. That has been made clear in a letter from Mr William Waldegrave, Secretary of State for Education, to Mr Gary Walker, Conservative MP for Brighouse and Spenborough, who had expressed concern about the practice after learning from a recent BBC television programme that considerable sums of money were sometimes involved and that large numbers of people were being misled.

What, how, when and where will our children and grandchildren eat? That was the broad theme of a conference of the food group of the Society of Chemical Industry which ended in London on Thursday. Not surprisingly it failed to reach any firm conclusions.

For example, opinion seemed to be sharply divided between those who believed there would be an increasing demand for convenience foods, and those who thought that increasing leisure would persuade people to see the buying, cooking and eating of food not as a mere necessity but as an occupational pursuit.

Sir James Clemons, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, spoke of two opposing trends. At one end there would be pressures for larger process-



A sheepdog demonstration in the Sculpture Court at the new Barbican Centre, London, yesterday which ended an event run by ICI Animal Health. The demonstration was provided by Mr Raymond MacPherson and his dog Zac.

## GLC rate challenge by Tories rejected

By David Walker

The latest rates demand of the Labour-controlled Greater London Council yesterday survived a legal challenge mounted by the Conservatives in charge of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Mr Justice McNeill decided in the Divisional Court that the GLC had acted within its powers in making its budget for 1982-83 and he refused to quash its rates precept.

The borough had challenged two items in the budget. £30m for a special reserve to cover unknown alterations in the GLC's grant from the Government, and £4.6m to help subsidize former GLC housing now owned by the boroughs.

The judge said the GLC had acted neither illegally nor unreasonably in making those calculations. Before bringing the case, Mr Nicholas Freeman, Kensington's leader, had blamed the 90 per cent increase in the GLC's precept for increasing the borough rates. He said earlier this month that the 25 per cent increase in household rates in Kensington "is entirely attributable to the increases of our preceptors".

In court, Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the borough, emphasized the new legal precedent of the verdict against the GLC in a case brought by the borough of Bromley against the 25 per cent cut in London Transport fares.

He argued that in making its budget, the GLC had discriminated unfairly among the boroughs in trying to manipulate the levels of rent charged on former GLC housing. In making its contingency reserve, the authority had never considered cutting spending as the alternative to raising the rates.

The full reasons for Mr Justice McNeill's ruling are to be set out later. He said that even if he had found items in the GLC's budget to be illegal, he would still have refused to quash the precept.

Had the precept been found illegal, local government finance in London would have been thrown into chaos even deeper than that surrounding the cheap fares. Mr Roger Henderson, QC, for the GLC, said that interfering with the precept after the new financial year began next week could have drastic repercussions. Once a precept has been made, the GLC cannot make another one. After the ruling, Mr Roy Webster, chief executive of Kensington, said that he would be consulting with Mr Freeman about an appeal. Both Mr Henderson and Mr Scrivener appear in the Divisional Court again on Monday in what is expected to be a landmark case for local government law.

For the first time under the Local Government Act, 1972, the district auditor is asking for a ruling on the legality of what is expected to be a landmark case for local government law.

He argued that in making its budget, the GLC had discriminated unfairly among the boroughs in trying to manipulate the levels of rent charged on former GLC housing. In making its contingency reserve, the authority had never considered cutting spending as the alternative to raising the rates.

## Politicians hiding 200 held in Bangladesh

By Our Foreign Staff

More than 200 people, including former ministers, are under arrest and up to 15 political leaders are in hiding, according to the new martial law administration in Bangladesh which took over in a quiet coup on Wednesday.

The Army and police are searching for several former ministers and wealthy businessmen who are likely to go on trial soon in special military courts on corruption charges. Officials and others with large properties will have to explain how they came by their wealth.

General Hossain Muhammad Ershad, the army chief who has taken over as martial law administrator, has made this anti-corruption drive the keystone of his regime, after months of demanding a bigger role for the military in government.

Meanwhile, the ousted President Abubakar Siddique remains at his home in Dhacca under police protection. It is unclear whether he is under house arrest.

An elderly, bearded visitor who emerged from Mr Siddique's house said that the deposed President had been seen by a doctor who had told him to rest. Asked if Mr Siddique was ill, the visitor replied: "He is an old man".

Those detained this week include four former ministers, a former opposition MP and several officials, according to sources in Dhacca. Three other former ministers were already in detention on embezzlement charges.

Under the martial law rules proclaimed by General Ershad, serious offences can be punishable by death. The arrested officials are said to include Mr Abdus Samad, former chairman of the Bangladesh Development Corporation, Mr Abdul Mannan, former director of the national airline Biman, and Mr Alauddin Shikdar, a former joint-secretary in the Land Reforms Ministry.

The opposition Awami League has welcomed the military takeover, saying it was aimed at eliminating bribery, corruption and favouritism among the ousted Bangladesh National Party led by Mr Siddique. General Ershad is expected to ask Awami League sympathizers to join his administration and is due to appoint a civilian president soon.

Speaking on television on Thursday night his second main broadcast to the nation since the coup, General Ershad said his government had taken realistic and effective measures against what he described as "heinous vested interests and corrupt elements".

Government agencies, he added, had been instructed to act under the law against offenders without fear or favour.

General Ershad has also added a civilian to his new Advisory Council, which includes the two deputy martial law administrators, Rear Admiral M. A. Khan and Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud. He is the former Air Force General K. A. Bakker. The council's main role is to assist General Ershad.

Mr Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, the Foreign Secretary, one of the few senior officials to retain his job said in a separate statement that the foreign policy of Bangladesh would be unchanged.

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## Central America turmoil

## Washington doubts if behind-scenes diplomacy can work

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 26

The constituent assembly elections in El Salvador this weekend will open a period of intense diplomacy involving the United States, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico and other Central American countries to explore negotiated solutions to the troubled region.

However, American officials are trying to play down speculation that Washington, by agreeing to new talks with Cuba and Nicaragua, is seeking to avoid deeper political and military involvement in Central America.

Officials are somewhat piqued that these behind-the-scenes diplomatic activities should be attracting so much public attention. They attribute this to the Mexicans who have been acting as a go-between in contacts involving the United States, Cuba and Nicaragua and are now trying to propel Washington into a new round of talks.

There is little optimism in Washington that the forthcoming round of diplomacy will succeed in achieving what is Washington's main objective: an understanding by Cuba and Nicaragua to discontinue support for Left-wing insurgents operating in El Salvador, Guatemala and other countries in the region.

Nor is there any expectation that a rapprochement with Cuba and Nicaragua will result from these contacts. Instead, the United States hopes to see an understanding of public opinion and to pro-Western countries in Latin America that by agreeing to talk to its adversaries

it is prepared to explore every means of reducing bloodshed and turmoil in this region.

The Administration is continuing to keep its cards close to its chest. There has still been no confirmation from Washington that General Vernon Walters, a special envoy, paid a recent visit to Havana, although it now seems certain that such a journey was made.

Nor has there been confirmation that senior American officials will have talks with the Nicaraguan Government early next month. However, reports from Mexico City say that Mr Thomas Enders, Under Secretary of State responsible for Inter-American affairs, will meet Sandinista leaders there soon.

Mr Daniel Ortega, the coordinator of the Nicaraguan junta and chief of state, called for "direct and frank" talks with the United States when he addressed the United Nations Security Council yesterday. Mr James Kirkpatrick, the American representative, was careful not to reject this offer although he was sceptical that progress could be achieved because, he said, the Nicaraguan leader's words did not match his deeds.

For the moment Washington is concentrating its attention on Sunday's election in El Salvador which is seen by the Administration as the event which will determine developments in Central America over the next few months.

## Massive show of force in capital

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 26

Left-wing guerrillas, battling to disrupt this Sunday's elections in El Salvador, had by early today fought their way into the outskirts of two provincial capitals.

The clandestine guerrilla radio station, Radio Venceremos, broadcast interviews with a man said to be the commander of the force attacking Usulután, 80 miles south-east of San Salvador. The radio called on civilians to gather materials needed to make Molotov cocktails.

The town of San Francisco Gotera, the capital of Morazan province, 120 miles north-east of San Salvador, was reported to have been cut off by a guerrilla force. The guerrillas, operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, have denounced Sunday's elections as a farce.

In other moves designed to disrupt the election, they have stopped buses on highways running across El Salvador and ordered passen-

gers to tear up their identity documents, without which they would be unable to vote. In San Salvador, guerrillas set fire to four buses and a truck carrying soft drinks.

Voters will be choosing 60 members of a Constituent assembly, which will have the power to elect an interim president, draft a new constitution and pass new legislation.

The election is being fought by six parties, five of them extreme right-wing groups opposed to the Christian Democrats, whose leader, Señor José Napoleón Duarte, is President of the ruling civilian-military junta.

The Government has laid out a massive show of force to meet the threat posed by the guerrillas, with troops stationed at intersections throughout the capital, and operation checkpoints on highways.

Apart from the clashes in the north-east, the country was reported quiet early today.

## Poles pay interest

From Peter Norman, Brussels, March 26

Interest due on Poland's 1981 commercial bank debt is "as good as paid" and the agreement rescheduling some \$2,400 million dollars (about £1,300) of principal should be signed as planned on April 6, according to an official at Dresdner Bank AG in Frankfurt.

After missing several deadlines, Poland has agreed to pay the last of \$500 dollars of back interest owing to its 501 Western bank creditors by today, Dresdner Bank, which has been coordinating the negotiations expects to have confirmation of payment early next year.

The delay in obtaining confirmation was because of

so many banks and several currencies were involved. Once the 1981 rescheduling agreement has been completed, Poland's Western creditors will have to consider rescheduling the \$4,700m of debt due this year.

Washington. — The United States is optimistic that its allies will shortly reach agreement on limiting officially-backed credits to the Soviet Union as a further sanction against its involvement in the imposition of martial law in Poland (Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 26).

## Radio fault threatens the shuttle mission

From Piers Akerman, Johnson Space Centre, Houston, Texas, March 26

Technicians of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and contractors for the space shuttle Columbia's communications system were struggling today to rectify a fault in one of the orbiter's transponders (radio signalling devices).

Columbia carries two transponders, which are the primary means of communication between the orbiter and ground tracking stations during flight. Each transponder can operate in a high-energy mode and a low-energy mode. One of the units lost its low-energy capability on Thursday.

The transponders are operated in the high-energy mode during launch, when a stronger signal is needed to punch through the interference created by the craft's passage through the earth's atmosphere.

Low-energy mode is used for the majority of communication once the shuttle is in orbit. All communication with the shuttle's computers passes through the transponders, but there is a back-up which can be used for voice communication only.

This is the fourth day of the reusable craft's third mission.

The mission can continue to the scheduled reentry on Monday if the remaining communications are not lost, but should the high-energy capability on the faulty transponder fail during repairs, NASA mission rules call for the flight to end.

The rules state clearly that the shuttle must return as soon as possible if one of the two transponders fails.

The astronauts, Colonel Jack Lousma and Colonel Gordon Fullerton and their crew have sufficient fuel to extend the mission by two days or more if bad weather should prevent a landing at the Army's White Sands mission range in New Mexico on Monday.

The repairs to the transponder did not overly concern the astronauts today as they performed more tests on the shuttle's remote-controlled arm. For the second day in succession they used it to pluck a plasma measuring device from the ship's cargo bay to gauge the amount of disturbance created by the shuttle.

## MEPs vote for 14pc farm prices increase

From George Clark, Strasbourg, March 26

Members of the European Parliament decided today to recommend a 14 per cent increase in farm prices in 1982-83. They turned down the arguments of both the EEC Commission for a 9 per cent rise, and of the farmers for 16.3 per cent.

The MEPs approved a resolution from the Parliament's agriculture committee, recommending a 14 per cent increase, which they regarded as taking fair account of increased farm costs, the drop in farm incomes in the past three years, and high interest and inflation rates.

With members from farming areas in the majority, Parliament brushed aside warnings from non-farming members, such as Mr Brian Hord, Conservative MEP for London, West, that the Committee's recommendation would only fuel inflation through higher prices to consumers. He said it would also lead to larger surpluses, to be financed by European taxpayers, which would be sold off at cut prices to Russia.

Mr Hord achieved one notable success however. He secured approval for his recommendation that the Commission and Council of Ministers should reconsider their plans to give high subsidies for the conversion of Europe's huge wine surplus into industrial alcohol. Representatives of British oil and chemical industries have already protested against the EEC plan, which threatens the jobs of people employed at industrial alcohol plants in Grangemouth and other places in Britain.

Less than 300 of the 434 MEPs were present for the vote. The chamber then rapidly emptied, and there was no quorum to vote on a strongly-worded motion appealing to the Council of Ministers to make a supreme effort on April 3 to settle their differences to the restructuring of the European Budget.



Speedy Gurkha: Corporal Gobinda Rai winner of this year's Khud Race up Nameless Hill (background) in Hongkong. The 1 mile 614 yard race dates from the Gurkhas' days on India's North West Frontier.

## Polisario dispute

## OAU leaders seek end to rift

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 26

Intense diplomatic activity is under way in several African capitals this weekend in an effort to extricate the Organization of African Unity (OAU) from the most serious crisis in its 19-year history.

The original cause of the rift among the 50 member states was a decision last month to admit the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as the fifty-first member at a foreign ministers' meeting in Addis Ababa.

Morocco, which does not recognize the republic, and its Western Sahara, walked out in protest, followed by 18 other members.

This was followed by a walkout by 13 members from an information ministers' meeting in Dakar this month. They objected to a decision by Senegal, the meeting's host and a close ally of Morocco, not to allow a Saharawi delegation to the meeting when they arrived at Dakar airport.

These developments have made many African diplomats wonder whether it will be possible to hold the organization's summit this year, scheduled to take place in the Libyan capital in August, and some even expressed fears for the organization's future.

Morocco has now launched a diplomatic offensive and King Hassan's envoys are visiting many African capitals urging a special summit to discuss the crisis.

The fact that concern for the organization's future is not confined to Morocco and its backers, who do not recognize the Polisario guerrilla movement as a government, is best illustrated by the action of Togo, a country which does recognize the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic.

The Togolese authorities said in an official statement that to prevent the disintegration of the organization, the republic's membership should be suspended and a special restricted meeting of the organization's heads of state held.

President Sika Stevens of Sierra Leone, whose government has recognized the republic but expressed reservations about the way it was admitted to the organization at the Addis Ababa meeting, arrived in Rabat yesterday for talks on the issue.

Sierra Leone is one of seven members of a special committee of the organization which is trying to arrange a referendum in the Western Sahara so that the territory's nomadic inhabitants may determine their own future.

One of the reasons that even some of the Polisario's backers have doubts about the wisdom of recognizing the Polisario as a government is that this appears inconsistent when the organization is also officially committed to trying to resolve the argument about who should be ruling the area.

The Polisario's main backers have been Algeria and Libya, and though it has publicly rejected the radical African governments which have recognized the republic and the moderates who have supported Morocco, the issue has also cut across ideological lines.

President Sekou Touré, President of officially Marxist Guinea, is one of King Hassan's most outspoken supporters.

Egypt is also playing an active role in the diplomatic moves caused by the crisis. Dr Boutros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has visited several West African capitals for talks.

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## Weinberger appeals to Japan

Tokyo, March 26. — Mr Casper Weinberger the American Defence Secretary, opened a campaign today to persuade Japan to spend more on defence.

In a major policy speech, in a meeting with Mr Soichiro Ito, the Japanese Defence Minister and at a press conference, he said that the United States was pleased with Japan's plans to increase military spending by 7.75 per cent this year. He said, however, that more was needed to meet the growing threat of the Soviet Pacific Fleet.

A senior American official said that the planned spending increase was actually worth about 4.6 per cent, after inflation had been taken into account, and that a rise of at least 10 per cent was needed for Japan to protect its air space and sea lanes out to a distance 1,000 miles from the mainland.

Mr Weinberger's efforts to persuade Japan to do more in its own defence reflect a mounting belief in America that Japan has an obligation to increase its expenditure to offset its highly favourable trade balance with the United States. — Reuters

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## TELEPHONE OFFICIAL SHOT DEAD

San Sebastian, Spain, March 26. Two gunmen shot dead the director of the telephone company in this Basque town today, 17 months after his predecessor was assassinated by separatist guerrillas.

Diego, a 54-year-old man, was shot as he walked home from his office. His police guard was seriously wounded.

Nine people have now died in the Basque country this year. In Madrid, the unified and separatist command set up a year ago to step up the fight against guerrillas, said police had detained 1,260 suspected urban guerrillas and had seized more than 600 firearms and a tonne of explosives over the past 15 months. — Reuters

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## East German pastors back young pacifist

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 26

East German Protestant pastors will speak from their pulpits in defence of young pacifists tomorrow after an attempt by the Communist regime to crack down on the burgeoning peace movement.

The authorities have banned, under threat of severe punishment, the wearing of armbands bearing the biblical words "words and ploughshares" (Micah 4:3).

The patches also depict the statue of a man beating a sword into a ploughshare given by the Soviet Union to the United Nations.

They had been adopted by numbers of young Christians as a protest not only against American nuclear missiles — as the authorities would have wanted — but against all weapons in East and West.

Those who disobey risk being expelled from their schools, colleges or universities, forbidden to take exams or refused apprenticeships. It amounts to the destruction of their prospects for a career or a good job.

East German police have reportedly already begun stopping young people in the streets and making them rip off their patches. Saxony Church leaders say the regime has told them it considers the patches have been "misused to imply a hostile attitude to the state and participation in an illegal political movement".

It also indicates that it sees the movement as a challenge to the state's own claim to be the champion of peace. In the state's view, peace must be armed and soviet missiles guarantee peace while Nato's planned missiles mean a new danger of war.

The announcement to be read from the pulpits throughout Saxony, says the Church firmly rejects the suggestion that the patches indicate public hostility. The message was drawn up by the Synod and leaders of the Saxony Protestant Church on Wednesday.

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## Full job policing Brooklyn's schools

From Christopher Thomas, New York, March 26

Uniformed guards are stationed at key points, walkie-talkies are crackling and echoing down long, bare corridors, and an armed policeman is patrolling outside. It is home-time at Midwood High School.

An anxious voice shouts out of the walkie-talkies: "A leather coat's been nicked from the girls' locker room." All nine guards are immediately on full alert, their eyes searching the sea of children now pouring noisily out of several exits. But it is hopeless.

There is pandemonium in the dean's office. He is in a foul mood. He slams the door, launches himself into a chair, and glares angrily at the gesticulating other side of the desk. "Why didn't you lock your locker? That's what the blasted thing's for."

He telephones her mother. Then he takes details, including the names of possible suspects, and a full investigation is launched. Known associates of all suspects will be questioned, the suspects will be closely watched as well as suspected. Parents may be contacted.

The coast should be back in 48 hours. Known gang and group leaders will be told: "Get that coat back or we'll give you trouble." It usually works, especially if the thief is promised a pardon.

A highly organized security operation exists in all high and junior high schools in the many troubled areas of New York City. The presence of guards, the fact that they are necessary in almost every school, is almost a given. But to hear them talk as though they are policing a grim, criminal underground of robbery, drugs and violence is chilling.

Mr David Hochstein is supervisor of one of the many mobile security task forces ready to move into school in the event of trouble too big for the in-house guards to handle.

He wears a silver badge issued by the Office of School Safety, part of the Department of Education. His neat uniform of blue blazer and grey trousers is distinctive but informal. Several schools come in his bailiwick but this school, in Brooklyn, one of the best state schools in the area though it has the potential for a racial explosion.

It is 49 per cent white, 35 per cent black, and the rest are Oriental or Hispanic. "We have the League of Nations," says Mr Leonard Harrison, the principal. He maintains exceptionally tight discipline, which he believes has stopped the school from becoming another slum school.

The school is protected by wire and heavy doors and visitors must report of a security guard at the entrance. "Safety," the principal emphasizes, "is paramount. You cannot do anything until your school is secure."

Much the same attitude is taken at the new Utrecht High School, also in Brooklyn, but in a solidly white area. The only black pupils are bussed in and trouble can flare at a moment's notice.

Police officer Tommy Mulhearn has patrolled the school and the surrounding streets for six years. He defends the need to carry a gun by producing a heavy knife from his pocket. "These are what many kids carry," he says. "I've never needed to use the gun. It is there as a deterrent."

The statistics point to a steady decrease in violence with a consequent improvement in academic standards. But it is bewildering to see children being chased down the street by an armed policeman merely for playing truant.

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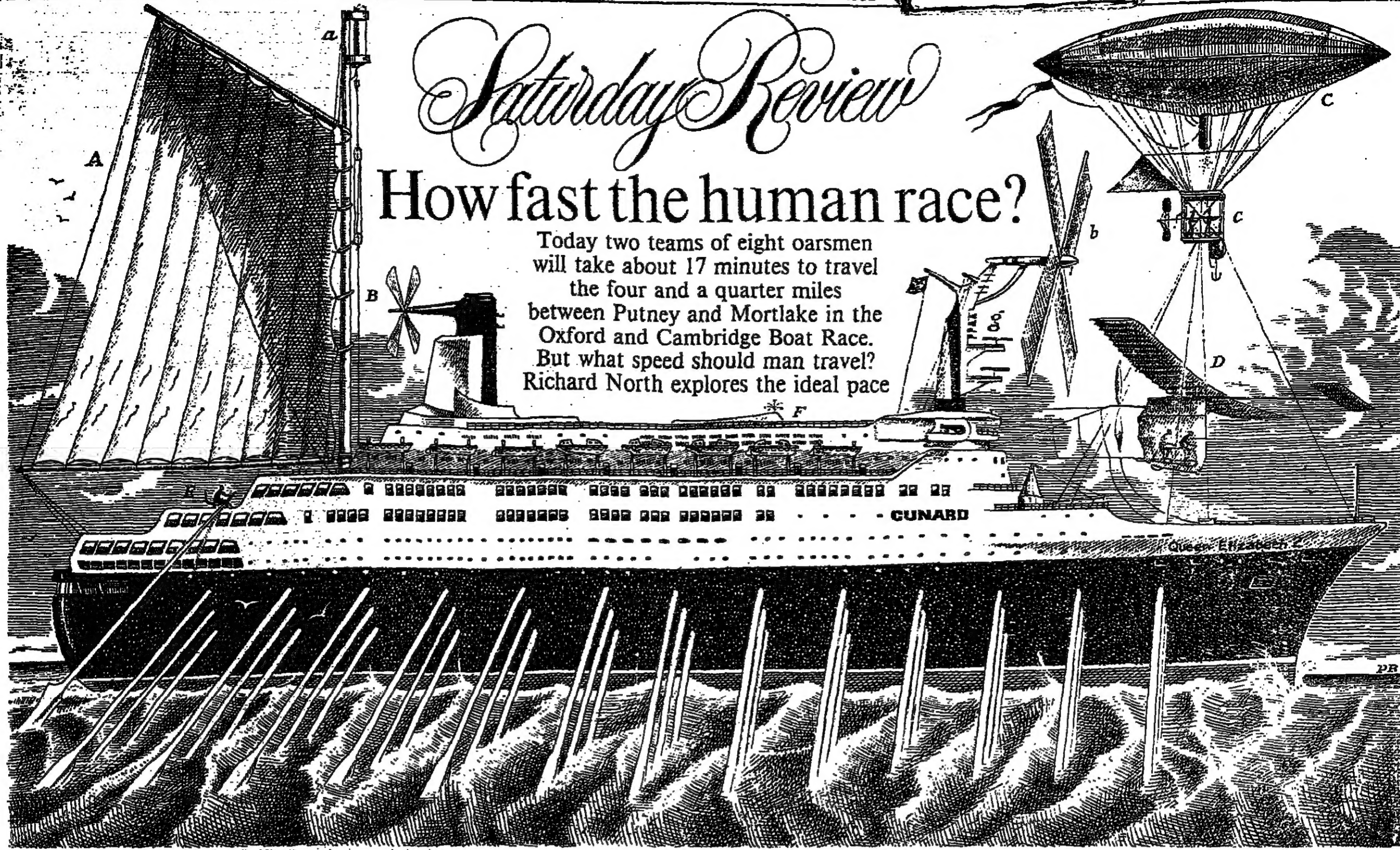
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The field was full, not only  
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# Saturday Review

## How fast the human race?

Today two teams of eight oarsmen will take about 17 minutes to travel the four and a quarter miles between Putney and Mortlake in the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race. But what speed should man travel? Richard North explores the ideal pace



Is man, like a gramophone record, the possessor of a proper speed? Is there some wonderful thirty-three-and-a-third we should seek for the well-being of our health and spirits? What sort of journeys should we hope to make?

A couple of skinny coves, to take today's obvious example, will get an exciting ride this afternoon: Putney to Mortlake, four-and-a-quarter miles, in about 17 minutes with an average speed coming up to 15 miles an hour.

Fifteen mph is very fast indeed in a rowing boat, but not for long. Cleverly organised, and its well-paid rowers (cash incentivised jobs, not slaves) really going some, it might average nine knots over 24 hours. But the twentieth century, whose Promethean ambitions are boundless, wants to go faster than that: Concorde, the image of our time, follows our recent tradition in sacrificing everything for speed. It goes more than twice the speed of sound, but uses more than twice the fuel of other modern jets.

Concorde will take a passenger — and so will a Rolls Royce — around 30 miles for a gallon of fuel. Even in a jumbo a passenger will "consume" up to four times his own body weight in juice to cross the Atlantic: outside the rich world few people use that much, all told in a year.

Napoleon was a la même l'entour que Caesar, said Valéry: what Napoleon achieved, he achieved at Caesar's pace. So going fast is no prerequisite of greatness. Perhaps, even there are speed-stunned people who go everywhere and see nothing, and pressured moguls who

understand nothing of what other people want because they are in permanent culture shock, perpetually jet-lagged. Ivan Illich, the clearest philosopher about this century, calls these people "the powerfully rushed". Thoreau, a man too smug to be much fun, nonetheless got his antennae firmly on to the matter with his notion: "The swiftest traveller is he that goes afoot."

But the rest of the nineteenth century was busy on its mind-bending business of acceleration: between 1837 and 1900 the average speed of mail coaches (they had changed from muscle to coal as the motive power) rose from less than 9 mph to something like 40 mph. In 1837 there had been 3,126 stage and mail coaches carrying people. So increased was the expectation of travel brought in by the train that it would have needed a quarter of a million coaches to satisfy the new demand.

For short journeys, people-power can be very elegant, and its speed the sort to suit Napoleon, Caesar and Thoreau. Bryan Allen pedalled across the Channel in June 1979 in a plane which weighed 70 lbs and had a wing span greater than that of a 120,000lb DC8. He waited himself 23 miles in two hours 49 minutes, lost about 1 lb in sweat, hurt a lot, and got a firm place in the history books. This is the class of man who can pump out a third of a horse-power for maybe three hours, and in bursts, treble that. On an ordinary bike, he might manage 42 mph for 200 metres (the current record), and cut a dash on roller skates at over 20 mph; given streamlining, he could get a bike to do 58 mph, and — with the addition of friend — tandem go 62.92 mph. (These are the standards set by the International Human Powered Vehicle Association, which now has a London representative and runs competitions here.)

Even an ordinary, sedentary commuter on a bike can manage 12 mph in London's rush hour (and at the energy equivalent to 1600 miles per

gallon) while the buses are down below walking pace. But London's rush hour never was where anyone wanted to be: and raising one's sights to the North Atlantic and New York, poses tougher problems. Especially for eco-freaks. Polish Ocean Lines will take you in nine days from Hamburg to New York, or Tilbury to Montreal. Otherwise, there are planes which cannot be energy efficient or roomy until a more sensible generation of machines are ushered in. The airship — which may civilise our skies one day — is not currently seen as a long haul option for passengers, even at 120 mph.

Perhaps there will be some development along the lines of the solar-powered Challenger, which flew across the Channel last year: the sun can give her nearly four horse power and she will plod along at one horse power.

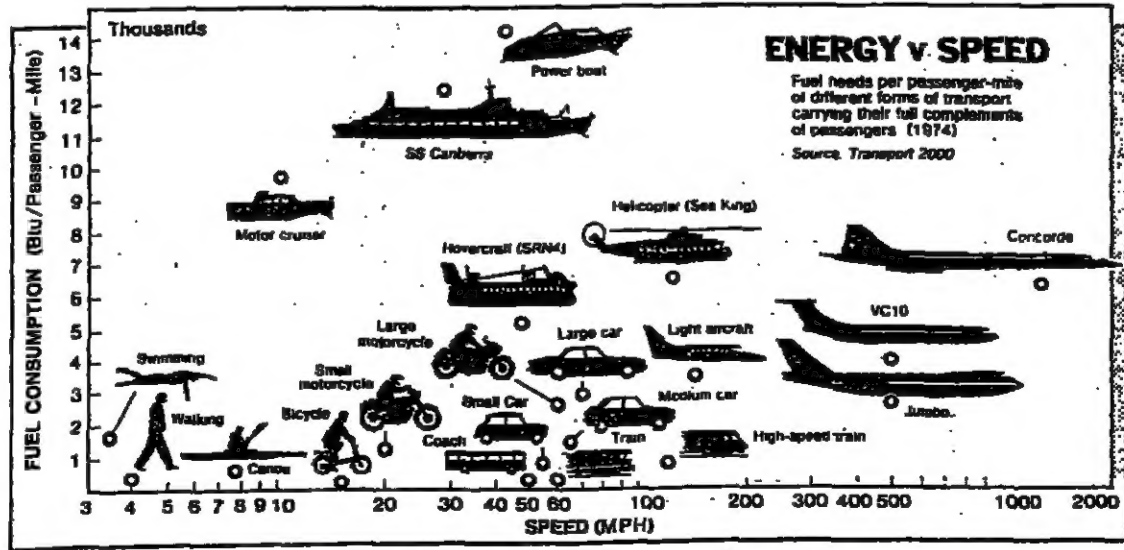
I cannot fancy repeating the 18 soggy trans-Atlantic crossings that the brilliant cheapie voyager, and writer, Tristan Jones, has sailed, nine of them alone: "and the slowest isn't the worst, by any means", he says. But Bern Porter, a retired nuclear physicist whom I met on QE2 last year, is very clear: "People want the best, and in

this goddam century, that means the fastest".

So he and about 2,000 passengers and 1,000 crew were being hurled across the ocean at a steady 28.5 knots, a rate of passage that has given QE2 nearly 2 million miles on the clock after 12 years' work. Queen Mary, herself no slouch, took 31 years to notch up 3 million. However, in consolation, the first Queen Elizabeth used twice as much energy per passenger mile as her sleek, yachlike heir. QE2 is of the 1960s as hubristic as moon travel: she whips around the world in 80 days, and crosses the Atlantic in a long weekend, at a pace which would serve for an elephant's water-skiing trial.

She does nothing to fulfill the dream of Ivan Illich in his seminal *Energy and Equity* that "free people must travel the road to productive social relations at the speed of the bicycle". QE2 is good on the productive human relations bit. But with prices that touch a quarter of a million dollars for the top suite for the circumnavigation, she's not particularly democratic.

The price of travel is nearly as important as its other tolls. Illich quotes this sum, which has a wonderful absurdity (though, bar powerful swim-



## Creatures of the village

The Buttercup field that lies just below Moon Cottage is a classic English meadow, permanent grazing for cattle over many centuries, like so many similar fields around Barley. They are too exposed for crops and too marshy for the plough, because of the streams coursing below, which make the ground waterlogged on the lower slopes. But these fields are fine for cattle, which go into the Buttercup field on the first of May.

A week before that, on a fine spring evening we put on wellingtons and went for a walk in the meadows. We were really hoping to see the baby hares. Almost every morning in March, I had looked out across this field, and the rise that leads up from it, to see hares behaving in that legendary way, going mad, racing about in circles, the males boxing one another to impress the females.

The field was full, not only of buttercups and cowslips, but of that pretty plant of the wet meadows, lady's smock,

which is a delicate, mauve colour. But, otherwise, all was yellow, for spring is yellow, from the first, powdery pale catkins on the trees, in February, to the dandelions, yellowest of all.

We turned up the slope, began to climb a stile between the hawthorn hedges, and froze on top. In the great field below us, that stretches right down to Fen Farm, and is mainly grazed by sheep, were the hares, dozens of them, with parties of leverets, racing about, playing, feeding on the young grass in the early evening sunlight.

We watched and watched, and then one of us moved a foot, or made some other, slight noise. One hare stopped dead, then another, sat on hind legs, ears pricked and quivering, and then, in all directions, they ran, incredibly fast, the young following, making desperate little squeals, and in seconds there were gone, the field was entirely empty and still.

All around us, on our first

spring at Moon Cottage, wild animals and birds were breeding, and in and around the village the farm animals and the dogs and cats bred, too, and my daughter Jessica looked at the 10 Labrador puppies from Church Cottage and the cat Hrothgar's first of two regular annual litters of kittens and at Mrs Plam's newly-hatched silky bantams, and the milk-white calf in the Buttercup field, and said at last, "But we only have an old cat and some hens whose eggs don't get babies", and so, by choice and chance, we began to extend the family.

In the beginning, there was the cat Hastings, mine for 16 years, far, somnolent, partially blind, touchy. She had not taken kindly to the arrival of husband and daughter, and grew introverted and resentful, but, as the years went by, she was neutered. And so we acquired Polly.

Polly was a London-born kitten, orphaned at three weeks, when her exquisitely

sort of dog I would have. Then, Miss Reever was ill, and died, and the dog, whose name was Tinker, needed a home. Within a week, he had his feet under our table and a place in all our hearts. I was right about him, he is the perfect dog, quick-witted, cheerful, willing and grateful, and moderately obedient. He looks like every small boy's terrier, small and wiry and spry. He chased the cats up the apple tree until we realized how strongly we disapproved, and now, although he gives every other cat in Barley a run for its life, ours he leaves alone, in spite of their provocations.

He is affectionate but not sloppy, anxious to please, and he retains a streak of purest independence. He is what Moon Cottage needed all along.

These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree*, by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.

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Travel: edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Parador living/John Carter

## Booking a castle in Spain

The tour company brochure was nothing if not tempting. "Follow the path of Don Quixote de la Mancha," it urged. "Visit the land of the Conquistadores.... Be enchanted by the wonder of Segovia." All this, and more, was contained in the itinerary of the self-drive holiday. But the brochure made no mention of the fact that the leading inkeeper of Castile, or of the spectacular way he demonstrates the tenderness of the roast suckling pig. Yet it is of this that I think when I look back on the tour I undertook last year. Because this is so much larger than life, so unashamedly theatrical in his approach, he provides a peg upon which a lot of lesser memories may be hung.

His restaurant, the Meson de Segovia, stands in the city of Segovia, right beside the high arches of the Roman aqueduct which is the city's trademark. The day has been so organized that we had time to visit the Alcázar, the fortress which overlooks it all, and the cathedral ("the last Gothic cathedral built in Spain") in the course of a long morning.

Lunchtime found us in one of the Alcázar's ornate dining rooms and the advice was that we should sample the "tender piglet" which is one of the establishment's specialties. We agreed, and the splendid Candido appeared, wearing a row of medals he had been awarded for his gastronomic feats, an ornate chain and sash, and an air of elderly dignity. Four suckling pigs were brought in with some ceremony and Candido, after a suitable speech, proceeded to break them apart with the edge of a plate to show how tenderly they had been prepared. It was all a great show, and very Spanish. "No, the sort of thing they do in the Schooner Inn," commented one of my companions. "Nor in Torremolinos, come to that," I replied.

It was another reminder, there if one needed, that there is a different face to Spain. Not the bright and painted face of the modern cities, where a million bodies, free upon the sands of summer, offer a different and much older countenance. It was to look upon that timeless aspect that I flew to Madrid, collected a hire car, and set off to visit the parador of the Alcázar (as the holiday brochure had labelled the package).

In Britain we would doubtless think it strange for the state to own and run a chain of tourist hotels, but in Spain, where tourism is a vital industry, only the state could have provided the money to establish and maintain the excellent parador system. It began in 1926 when King Alfonso XIII chose the site for the Parador Nacional de Gredos in the Gredos mountains, and now something like 75 of these paradores are to be found in all the provinces of Spain. The original idea was simply to open up areas which were of interest to visitors, but which had no suitable accommo-



The Alcázar at Segovia: paradors get the finest sites.

dation. To this was later added the aim of restoring and remodelling buildings of historic interest.

It seems to have worked remarkably well if my experience on this and previous journeys is a guide. The paradores are of high quality, but they make few if any concessions to foreign tastes — no bland "internationalized" food in their dining rooms, but menus based on local specialties, and very Spanish medicines.

For some reason or other I was unable to obtain a really good road map — certainly not one as detailed as the Michelin which are so easily available in France. I am sure they must exist, but found the standard "tourist" map inadequate, although the holiday company does supply a detailed guide to the route I was to follow. To get the most from such a tour, I think one needs to speak a little Spanish and to study the standard history of the particular cities and regions to be visited. This is a holiday that requires preparation.

Of the paradores I visited, the one at Segovia stands on high ground a little distance from the valley in which the city is built. The parador itself was opened in 1978 and is a great contrast to those many others which began life as castles or manor houses and have been sympathetically

converted (to use the phrase of the estate agent). It is also a fine example of how the state is able to ensure that, when paradores are purpose-built in this way, they are placed on the finest sites. Another excellent example of this is the parador at Toledo — the Parador of the Count of Orgaz — with its superb view over the rooftops of that fine old city. Coincidentally we were in Toledo for the procession of Corpus Christi and it was that particular parador that many high officials of the Government had chosen as their temporary headquarters.

Toledo was the starting point of the tour and the route suggested in the holiday brochure takes you from there to Almagro, Guadalupe, Orpesa and Segovia, staying at three and four star paradores. I varied the itinerary, cutting across from Toledo to Orpesa and also diverting to take in more of the great plain of La Mancha with its occasional clusters of windmills and its association with Quixote.

The Parador del Virrey de Toledo at Orpesa is the epitome of the system — an ancient castle that was restored and converted for use as a hotel, part of the Alcázar, and which came into such use in 1930. It was built in the reign of Pedro I of

Castile in 1366 and now provides the ideal place to stay for a night or two during a motoring tour. The town itself is pleasant and picturesque but it is as well to bear in mind that such a holiday will take you away from the usual tourist areas. Though you will not be entirely isolated you will be thrown upon your own resources to some extent — no "organized nightlife" or "excursions" on this package holiday.

This, however, exactly suited the holidaymakers I encountered. All preferred the character of the older, converted, establishments, though the purpose built paradores have their advantages — swimming pools for one thing.

The particular holiday I sampled is in the Mundi Color brochure, which should be obtainable from any travel agent (or write direct to UTA Travel Ltd., 276 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1BS). It does not know how surcharges will affect the price this coming summer, but the basic cost of an eleven night holiday (Tuesday departures from Heathrow) ranges from £381 to £458 per person. A ten night holiday based on Saturday flights from Heathrow, costs from £366 to £463.

Chess/Harry Golombek  
Poor no more

An important reason for the impressive list of English successes at international level in recent years has been the generous financial sponsorship of our players, both as individuals and as teams. These players, once the poor relations of the world scene, have blossomed into something resembling the capitalist heroes of the Soviet Union. More than 20 years ago I remember telling the Soviet grandmasters that we in the West were the chess proletariat and that they were the capitalists, to be rewarded by a contented Russian smile.

When I heard that for the important match with Sweden at Gothenburg on March 13 and 14 in our preliminary group in the European Team Championship most of our grandmasters were not available, I had misgivings about its outcome. But the financial sponsorship of Duncan Lawrie, a firm whose general policy has been of the utmost importance for English chess in the international field, enabled us to field a team that outlasted the strong Swedish team by the large margin of 9½-6½. This means that England can afford to draw their match with Iceland, the third member of the preliminary group of the European Team Championship in which England is placed.

Another event for which financial sponsorship is essential is the Blind World Championship which is being held at the Royal Victoria Hotel in Hastings from April 4 to 17. Twenty six countries have entered for this interesting event, but there are 30 players: the host country has the right to put in two representatives, and Russia, possessing both the present world champion, Sergei Karpov, and the former champion, Nikolai Rudenskiy, also has the right to send two.

For this event there is no single sponsor, but the backing is widely spread. I understand that the organizers are still about £2,000 short of their target, so anyone wishing to do blind chess a good turn should send a contribution to the treasurer of the British Chess Association, David Milson, at 30 Greenleaf Northfield, Birmingham B31 1PQ.

Another important financial sponsor to whom we chess players owe a recurring debt of gratitude is the great stockbroker firm of Phillips & Drew who are once again sponsoring a magnificent international tournament in conjunction with the Greater London Council at County Hall from April 15-30. This time we shall see the present world champion, Anatoly Karpov, in action, as well as the former world champion, Boris Spassky. The player who would seem most likely to challenge Karpov for the first place is the young Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman, ranked second in the world's rankings, next to Karpov. He beat him recently in the Clarif tournament in Argentina. No doubt Karpov will be anxious to gain his revenge in London. Other formidable players from abroad are Lejko Petrosian from Hungary, Ljubomir Ljubovic (Yugoslavia), Ulf Andersson (Sweden), Larry Chris-

tiansen and Yasser Seirawan (US) and the Soviet grandmaster, Efim Geller, now nearing the veteran stage but not so long ago Soviet champion.

The home contingent is also formidable: Jonathan Mestel, Tony Miles, John Nunn, Nigel Short and Jonathan Speelman. Of them all I hope most fervently that Mestel does well, partly because of his interesting style of play and partly because he needs only one more grandmaster performance to gain the title he so richly deserves.

Here is a fine game he won in the match against Sweden. He plays an unusual line against the French Defence and I thought I would see what the latest works on the subject say. The first is The French Defence by Gilgioric and Uhlmann (A & C Black, 309 pages, £5). This contains little about the line but is well adapted for use by the less advanced since it gives selected games and descriptions of the ideas.

Much more about the variation is to be found in the new edition of Volume C of the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings edited by A. Matanovic (Batsford, 490 pages, £19.95). This contains not only the French Defence but also all openings commencing 1.P-K4,P-K4. It is in the algebraic notation and is designed for master and more advanced players. White: J. Mestel. Black: A. Orstein. French Defence

1 P-K4 P-K4  
2 N-K3 P-K4  
3 N-Q2 N-K3  
4 N-K2 N-K3

5 P-B3 P-Q4  
6 P-K2 P-K4  
7 P-K3 P-K4  
8 P-Q4 P-K4  
9 P-K5 P-K4  
10 P-K6 P-K4  
11 P-K7 P-K4  
12 P-K8 P-K4  
13 P-K9 P-K4  
14 P-K10 P-K4  
15 P-K11 P-K4  
16 P-K12 P-K4  
17 P-K13 P-K4  
18 P-K14 P-K4

19 P-K15 P-K4  
20 P-K16 P-K4  
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25 P-K21 P-K4  
26 P-K22 P-K4  
27 P-K23 P-K4  
28 P-K24 P-K4  
29 P-K25 P-K4  
30 P-K26 P-K4  
31 P-K27 P-K4  
32 P-K28 P-K4  
33 P-K29 P-K4  
34 P-K30 P-K4  
35 P-K31 P-K4  
36 P-K32 P-K4  
37 P-K33 P-K4  
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47 P-K43 P-K4  
48 P-K44 P-K4  
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After the Hillhead euphoria, tough questions for the SDP Liberal Alliance

# Good for the Alliance, better for Labour

by Ivor Crewe

Of the four by-elections in Great Britain since the launch of the Social Democratic Party, Hillhead is by far the trickiest to assess. Compared with the polls 10 days ago, Mr Jenkins' victory seems impressive.

Compared with the assumption shared by the media and the SDP's electoral advisers in January that professional-cum-academic Hillhead was natural SDP territory, a "silver seat" in Alliance language, the 6 per cent majority looks less spectacular.

Moreover, interpretation of the result is complicated by the Scottish National Party, and also by the fact that, setting aside nationalist support, the Labour Party in Scotland has consistently appeared in the polls to be more durable, and the Alliance less alluring, than in England. The bare statistics of the Hillhead result are, therefore, easy to misinterpret.

To the naked eye the Alliance's bandwagon continued to roll, but more slowly. Its 33 per cent share of the vote was well down on Warrington (42 per cent), Croyd, NW (40 per cent) and Crosby (49 per cent). The swings to the Alliance from the Conservatives (16.8 per cent) and from Labour (13.8 per cent) were certainly substantial by post-war standards, but well below the recorded in the three 1981 contests (see table). Whatever its historical significance may be, it was not a by-election for the psephological record books.

Examination of desertion rates from the two main parties, however, does point to one consistent feature of the Alliance's advance (see the right hand columns of the table). Roughly a third of the 1979 Conservative vote appears to be winnable by the Alliance (unless it is subject to a tactical squeeze, as in Warrington, in which case the proportion is higher); roughly a fifth of the traditional, heavy industrial, working-class Labour vote — of the kind found in Warrington and the shipyard enclaves of Hillhead — is also winnable by the Alliance.

The short-term electoral implications are worse for the Conservatives than Labour; but in the long-term it is surely the Labour Party, the official Opposition in a period of deep recession, which looks most vulnerable.

Under the psephologist's microscope, however, the Alliance's health appears a little more robust. First, one can add the 282 votes of the phoney Roy Jenkins, almost

**'On new constituency boundaries, a calculation on the Hillhead figures would produce a Parliament in which Labour was the largest party ... with the Alliance holding the balance'**

all of which were cast in error, to the real Roy Jenkins. That puts his vote up to 34 per cent. Secondly, if comparisons are to be made with English by-elections, a way must be found of dealing with the SNP's vote.

The simple method is to eliminate it then re-percentage the votes of the remaining candidates. This would produce the "result": Alliance 38 per cent, Conservative 30 per cent, Labour 30 per cent, other 2 per cent.

A System Three survey in early March, which asked voters to state their second preferences, cast doubt on this, indicating that without a candidate, one in four would have voted Alliance, Labour and Conservative in the ratio of 7 to 4 to 1. If these figures are applied, the Hillhead "result" would have been: Alliance 40 per cent, Labour 30 per cent, Conservative 28 per cent, others 2 per cent.

Thus the effect of the SNP vote was to deprive Labour of second place (but not victory, as some have suggested), and to make the similar levels of support obtained by the Alliance in Warrington, Croyd and Hillhead.

To project an election result from these figures, however, the estimates must incorporate two additional factors.

On the one hand, the Liberals have always been relatively strong in Hillhead compared with elsewhere in Scotland; on the other, polls have shown throughout the last year that support for the Alliance, even after adjusting for the SNP, is 3 to 4 per cent lower in Scotland than in Britain as a whole.

The final, overall calculation on the Hillhead figures suggests that it is in fact the equivalent of a vote in Britain as a whole of 38 per

cent Alliance, 31 per cent Labour, 26 per cent Conservative, 5 per cent others. On new constituency boundaries this would produce a Parliament in which Labour was the largest party (284 seats — more than it has now), the Alliance held the balance (248 seats) and the Conservatives were reduced to a rump of 78 — a fine reminder of the anomalies produced by the first-past-the-post electoral system when three parties are in almost-equal contention.

The result was deceptive in two other ways. First, it was not quite the setback for the nationalists that it seems. True, the SNP lost its deposit, and could only improve on its 1979 performance by 1 per cent. True, the picture was very different under the 1970-74 Conservative government, when by-elections anticipated the nationalist breakthrough in the two 1974 elections.

In the November 1973 by-election at Edinburgh North, for example, which closely resembles Hillhead in its social and political make-up, the SNP picked up 19 per cent of the vote at its first attempt; and in Dundee East and Glasgow Govan, where it was competing against all three parties, its vote averaged 38 per cent. Clearly the standard-bearer against the two big parties is now the Alliance.

None the less, coupled with recent Scottish polls and local authority by-elections, the Hillhead result suggests that the nationalists' 17 per cent vote in 1979 was a bed-rock.

That level of support is sufficient to ensure the SNP some parliamentary representation. Indeed, the Conservative vote has only to slip by half the amount in Hillhead for the SNP to regain the seven rural Conservative seats that it narrowly won in 1974 and



Jenkins: doubts behind the victory salute

equally narrowly lost in 1979. Applied to the rest of Scotland the Hillhead swings would win almost as many seats for the nationalists as they would for the Alliance. The SNP will not disappear; it broke the mould of Scottish politics a decade ago.

The other deceptive statistic was turnout. At 76 per cent, it was fractionally higher than in the general election, and much higher than in a normal British by-election. But the figure is less impressive than it seems. Scottish by-election turn-outs are generally higher than elsewhere in Britain; moreover, the Hillhead figure was lower than for previous by-elections in Glasgow, Pollok, Ayrshire, South and Rox-

burgh fought on a March register and when the contest was between only two or three parties. In Hillhead there were four established parties and eight candidates. The electorate was bombarded with leaflets, pursued by posters and submerged by media coverage. Yet on a sunny spring day about a fifth of the electorate was unwilling to vote. Perhaps there is a mould of indifference and cynicism still to be broken.

The author is co-director of the British Election Study and director of the SSRC Survey Archive, both at the University of Essex.

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## WHERE THE ALLIANCE VOTES HAVE COME FROM

	% change from general election	% swing from Con to SDP-Lib	% swing from Lab to SDP-Lib	proportion of 1979 vote lost at by-election	Con	Lab
Warrington (July 16, 1981)	-21.7	-13.2	+33.3	27.5	23.3	75.3
Croydon NW (October 12, 1981)	-18.9	-14.1	+29.5	24.2	21.8	38.3
Crosby (November 26, 1981)	-17.2	-15.9	+33.9	25.6	24.9	30.2
Glasgow Hillhead (March 25, 1982)	-14.5	-8.5	+19	16.8	13.5	35.3

\* After adjusting for change in turn-out

# And now could we have some policies?

by Geoffrey Smith

**'The Alliance will never make the breakthrough at a general election if it appears as no more than the vehicle for protest'**

There is no substitute for victory in politics. If Mr Jenkins had lost by even a handful of votes at Hillhead the disaster for the SDP Liberal Alliance could not have been explained away by any psephological artistry. He would not have been eligible to become the parliamentary leader of the SDP; there would have been no readily accepted leader of the Alliance; and a psychological blow would have been suffered just when the Alliance was losing momentum in the country as a whole. Defeat would have strengthened the impression that the whole Alliance phenomenon was no more than a spectacular version of a mid-term Liberal revival.

But now that Mr Jenkins has won by a comfortable margin it would be foolish to try to explain away his triumph. It is true that it owed much to his personality. It was noticeable going round the doorsteps with Mrs Jenkins how many people had met her husband. He was the celebrity of the campaign. He was also rather more suited to Hillhead than was appreciated by those who made the obvious criticism of a metropolitan Welshman standing for a Scottish constituency — a serious, even fastidious, candidate for unusually serious voters.

This was illustrated by the most bizarre episode of the campaign when the local housing association arranged for each of the candidates in turn to visit a 90-year-old man living in bad conditions on the second floor of a tenement. We all of us — journalists, television producers, camera crews and radio reporters — crowded into a small room alongside the camera to watch each candidate take the chair by the old man for his allotted time of televised compassion. Everyone was a bit embarrassed: politicians, broadcasters and journalists alike. Was this not really rather inhuman exploitation? The occasion was redeemed only by the fact that one person was thoroughly enjoying it: the old man was having the time of his life.

"Is that the end of them?" he asked with evident disappointment as the last candidate departed. But it was Mr Jenkins' credit that he was more embarrassed than any of the other candidates. His distaste for showbiz politics suited the mood of this electorate.

The Alliance will not often be able to field a candidate of the calibre of Roy Jenkins.

But neither will it anywhere in England have to face the competition of a Nationalist party for the protest vote. Much of the increased strength of the SDP in the closing days of the campaign can be attributed to the success in securing the Nationalist support. If the Nationalist had done as well in the election itself as he was doing in the opinion polls a week ago it is hard to believe that Mr Jenkins could have done more than squeak home. But this is a complicating factor that the Alliance will not face outside Scotland and Wales.

So this is a victory with both practical and psychological consequences. The psychological aspect is of tremendous importance for a new political formation in two respects. How well it does will depend a great deal upon how well people think it will do. They will not wish to waste votes at a general election on parties that seem to stand little chance of forming, or at least taking part in, a government. But the more the Alliance appears to be a serious contender for office the more rigorously will its policies be scrutinized.

The Alliance has come a long way so far on a minimum of policies. This reticence on policy has come about partly because the first type of supporter has not had time to define their positions in more than broad outline. But much of it is deliberate. They know that too much policy is a positive disadvantage for attracting the protest vote: if you are not careful the voters will start to protest against your policy as well as against the other parties' performance. The Alliance leaders have also seen too many governments strangled in office by the commitments they acquired in opposition. They do not believe in programmatic politics.

But it is always possible, in politics as in other activities, to take a self-denial a bit too far. Mr Jo Grimond is fond of saying that it is not necessary for a political party to have a policy for

everything from dog licences to world government. Put like that, who could disagree with him? But between these two fascinating areas of speculation there are one or two practical questions to which voters are liable to want answers from parties that aspire to form a government.

This will present the Alliance leaders with a delicate test of judgment. They will not want to tie their hands or to present their opponents with too inviting a target. They will still hope to win the protest vote. But the Alliance will never make the breakthrough that it seeks at a general election if it appears as no more than the most comfortable vehicle for protest. It must therefore give a sufficient indication of what it would do in order to be credible as a prospective government.

In particular it will have to show that its ideas have been thought through, that the critical areas of policy — policy and decentralization. Even after the serious campaigning of Hillhead, that is by no means clear.

The Alliance will find it all the more difficult to strike the right balance on policy commitments because there is a fundamental contradiction in the nature of its support which becomes more evident the more one sees the reactions of individual voters in very different circumstances. There are many who are attracted to the Alliance as the sensible grouping in between, neither Thatcherite Conservative nor Bennite Labour. The Alliance appeals to these voters because of what it would not do. It offers them the prospect of practical, realistic government, avoiding the extremist errors of other parties.

But there are others who look to the Alliance for more radical solutions. "We'll give them a chance," these voters say, on the doorstep which means that they are looking for a miracle cure. Whereas the first type of supporter is seeking stability, the second is demanding change. Will it be possible for the Alliance to produce policies to satisfy the one without alarming the other?

On some stage, unless it is very lucky, the Alliance is likely to experience some difficulty in balancing these conflicting expectations. But for the time being it may reasonably hope to ride on the momentum of Hillhead. It has shown that it can not only survive but flourish in the surge of fashionable sentiment, but also that it can recover from the prospect of defeat.

Philip Howard, ex-butler, studies a fellow professional

## Dash it, sir, a man must not serve and tell

Stanley Ager has broken the first unwritten rule of the butler's profession by betraying the confidences of those whom he has served. It was the first thing that they taught those of us who took temporary employment as butlers when *The Times* was closed for most of 1978.

A butler has a confidential relationship with his employers, like that of a doctor or a priest. He must never repeat, far less publish, anything that he hears above stairs. I suppose that my finest hour as temporary butler was to have the honour of serving a champagne reception for 90 gynaecologists and the Queen. I saw things behind the scenes on that occasion that the resting back in me itched to publish. But Noblesse Oblige. The old lips are sealed.

As the sage Claudian happily put it 16 centuries ago: *Humanum curare genus quis terminus unquam praescripsit?* What boundary ever set limits to the service of a butler?

Of course, we gentlemen's gentlemen write character reports on our employers in the members' log-book of the Junior Gynae Club, and highly entertaining, not to say sensational, some of them are. But they remain strictly confidential, locked in the big leather-bound book by the Secretary's key. Only members of the club contemplating taking a position are allowed to inspect what one might describe as the dirty linen of their potential employers.

And now this boulder Stanley Ager has broken the rules and spilled the beans. He has been in service since 1922 to some of the noblest families in the land, finishing his career as butler to the second and third Lord St. Levan. And here he is publishing a little book that gives away the secrets of the ministerial profession on such trivia as the right way to brush a felt hat, and the correct way to pack clothing (he favours tissue paper; I have always found that old linen napkins give more satisfaction).

It may be undignified to publish such stuff, but that does not matter greatly. They seem to have been remarkably slapdash about their shoe and leather care at St

Michael's Mount; it would not have done for — O, apostrophe, Howard. And his advice on opening champagne bottles, though perfectly sound, is impractically elaborate when 900 thirsty gynaecologists and Her Majesty are waiting with their tongues hanging out. What you need then is strong fingers and a pair of stout pliers. One of the gynaecologists sent me a pair of pliers of his profession after I had torn my thumb nail forefinger to bleeding ribbons opening hundreds of bottles.

What matters greatly is that this Ager sees fit to divulge anecdotes and titillate about the eminent people (some of the highest names in the land) whom he has served; stories of a sort that I would not allow the junior servants to tell among themselves even in the privacy of any butler's pantry of which I was in charge.

Stories of the Princess Royal walking like a train to give her escorting policeman the slip, or Mrs Vanderbilt demanding receipts for her tips (not exactly generous, one might say, since she was being indiscreet, or the Queen's informality on tea-time visits to her friends may have a vulgar fascination for the giddy-minded. But they can only weaken the reverence for the upper classes that is the cement of society, and undermine confidence in the courtier professions.

Ager disgracefully owns up to how he would get his own back on a guest of whom he disapproved. He would weaken a couple of stitches in the instep of his shoe by half-cutting them with a razor blade, so that a couple of weeks later the sole of his shoe would hang off. He would turn his kid gloves

inside out after taking the coat of some gilded youth, before slipping them back in his pocket. "It's an awful job to right those kid gloves when they are inside out — and it's certainly not easy for a young man to do when going out with a young lady in a hurry."

On one occasion "a particularly tricky gentleman" left some lovely shaving cream behind. All the staff dipped into it, but the man returned unexpectedly. So Ager topped it up with soda, knowing that this would irritate his skin. "Sure enough, when he came down to breakfast the next morning, his chin was covered with pimples."

Revelations such as these destroy the mutual confidence on which the butler-master relationship depends. Of course Ager gets some things right. He has, after all, been in service for more than half this century. I thought that the chapter on how to iron a newspaper was particularly thoughtful, though I disagree with Ager's assertion that "only the better newspapers, such as *The Times* and *The Financial Times*, were read in the drawing room." We used to keep them in the butler's pantry.

In my experience, *The Sun* and the *Daily Mail*, with, of course, *Country*, *Life* and *Horse and Hound*, are quite demanding enough reading for the drawing room. Ager has been a country member of the Junior Gynae Club since before the war, paying occasional visits when the family came up to town from the West Country. A bespectacled, severe-looking man, he has the presence of a butler, but clearly he lacks the essential gravitas. His unfortunate book has caused great pain and scandal in the butlering profession.

My old friend, Reginald Jewess, and I have put down a motion of censure for the next committee meeting of the Gynae Club. I am afraid that extreme measures are called for. There is no alternative to expulsion with dishonour, the crested buttons being ceremonially snipped off in a hollow square of footmen and hall boys.

The Butler's Guide to Clothes Care, Managing the Household, Running the Home and Other Graces, by Stanley Ager and Roy Jenkins (Papermac, £3.95).

## Dangers for a long-distance youngster

Cries of "unfair" went up this week when an 11-year-old girl, Cheryl Page, was refused permission to run in future marathons after finishing one at Winchester in four hours 48 minutes. The Amateur Athletic Association has announced that it will not allow children to run in officially sanctioned marathons.

An explosion of interest in the 26 miles 385 yards race has brought many problems. The accusation of anachronisms in the AAA rules on age limits are the latest. "Fun runs" and unannounced marathons abound and the AAA knows that if parents think it reasonable for children to race over long distances, unofficial events will be found.

There is nothing new about young sportsmen and women succeeding at high level. A 16-year-old won the English long jump title in 1873, but the advent of the jogging boom in America led to events for young competitors with nine-year-olds being credited with "world marathon records" and even a four-year-old being timed over a full marathon course.

Mel Barry, a national event coach for marathon running and a prodigious long distance runner, was horrified at the prospect of parents joining the marathon bandwagon in Britain by encouraging children to compete.

He said: "There is no way we should encourage it. If children are pressured to embark on long distances it will damage their long term prospects. There is evidence from the United States by the time they reach peak strength their concentration has gone."

"I am not saying that children will suffer severe physical damage by the training involved but there is a danger that if parents and coaches pressurize them into competition, their natural instinct to stop running when

they are tired out could be overcome by the fear of adult reactions. At present the longest competitive race for 11-year-olds is 1,500 metres and I want it to stay that way. I will never recommend to the AAA or British board that they should hold children's marathons or even mini-marathons."

Children under ten are known to run up to 100 miles a week in the United States. They risk all the usual injuries brought on by excessive physical stress. Young baseball pitchers who practise for hours do lasting damage to arm and shoulder muscles and doctors are now treating young runners for Achilles tendon trouble, back problems and even stress fractures.

Constant jarring, caused by running on roads without the proper footwear, can also cause kidney damage and pelvic and spinal injuries. The International Olympic Committee has recently studied the ethical problem of children in sport, partly as a result of Eastern block countries producing adolescent gymnastics champions, but mainly because of rumours concerning injuries in training and the use of drugs.

The IOC leave individual sports to decide on minimum ages for competition, which in the case of gymnastics is now 15. There is no minimum age restriction for children doing basic gymnastics at local level in Britain.

While the gravest rumours concern crippling injuries suffered by children in the Soviet Union and East Germany, last year a north London club was summoned to the British Amateur Gymnastics Association to explain why several members had been hurt.

Duncan Goodhew, the Olympic swimming champion, puts forward the theory that there are two ways to sporting success: "brainwashing or forming a philosophy." He said: "When you are young you take things at surface value. If a



Eleven-year-old Cheryl with her father, Major Brian Page: is she too young for the marathon?

coach says this is the right way for you to get a world record a lot of times you believe it.

"But at 15 and 16 you start reasoning. If the coach says the same thing you say: 'who, me, a world record holder?' and you think about all the others trying to do the same thing."

Goodhew was disturbed by the idea of youngsters running for miles on roads and though not an apologist for doping parents who pushed children into hours of training after they had ceased to enjoy the sport, he felt swimming was always less hazardous than exercise involving abnormal twisting and turning.

He pointed out that swimming champions now tended to be older and were retiring later.

While running a marathon and the necessary training may merely shorten the competitive life of a very young athlete, and almost certainly cost him success later, drugs remain the most serious threat. Although the only evidence so far put forward in Britain, involving a 13-year-old weightlifter, was not substantiated, Professor Arnold Beckett, head of the Chelsea College Drug Control Centre, is convinced that drugs are being given to young people in sport.

When an East German athlete, Renate Neufeld, defected to the West she claimed at 17 she was told to take tablets which proved to be anabolic steroids.

Norman Fox

## The risks they run

**JOINTS**  
● Excessive running, particularly on hard surfaces, may give rise to osteoarthritis in the knees and hips in middle age.  
● Cartilages in the knee are easily damaged by excessive twisting.  
● Young joints may be permanently damaged if their suppleness is exploited by gymnastics.

**BONES**  
● The neck, as well as being damaged in other activities, sports such as rugby and wrestling, can also be injured in tennis or golf by a poorly coordinated serve or swing.  
● Excessive running on hard surfaces jars the spine. Spinal injuries can occur and spine can be affected by constant stress.  
● Runners develop little spurs on their heels and if shoes are badly fitted they are liable to hammer toes and bunions.  
● Stress fractures may occur in the small bones of the foot (metatarsals) and occur occasionally in the smaller, two leg bones (fibula).  
● The ball of the foot may collapse (police man's foot).

**SOFT TISSUE**  
● Last arm and stomach muscles may be strained or torn.  
● Excessive exercise in a young person (particularly swimmers and weightlifters) can overdevelop certain groups of muscles which may look unattractive and be replaced by fat at a later age when less exercise is taken.  
● Over exercise can damage the Achilles tendon.  
● Tennis elbow and focus of inflammation of the tendon sheaths may follow repetitive exercise.  
● Inflammation of the ligament underneath the heel.

**OTHER**  
● Gynaecologically, hyperactivity and hyperkalemia are often related to the symptoms of anorexia nervosa and bulimia. In young girls, puberty is often delayed. Even if a very thin patient puts on the appropriate amount of weight, ovulation may not recur at a high level of exercise.  
● Sudden death can often expose unsuspected heart disease.  
● Latent epilepsy may be uncovered by excessive exercise.  
● A type of asthma may be induced by exercise.

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## ONE CANDLE ON A BIG CAKE

So Mr Roy Jenkins is back in the Commons where he belongs. His victory at Hillhead yesterday presented the Social Democratic Party with an ebullient first birthday present. The return of Mr Jenkins to Westminster will invigorate Parliament, and create some welcome stimulus to the political debate. He is a Parliamentarian of wit, ability and much experience of the high offices of State. The Brussels interruption, though dignified, was not singularly impressive, but his presence on the SDP benches will give that Party much needed bottom which has not hitherto been provided by the disgraced charm of Mrs Williams or the sometimes discomforting self-importance of Dr Owen.

The question remains, however: what does the by-election mean for the future? The ground has been well worked with computers, swingmeters and all the paraphernalia of punditry, in addition to the multitude of explanations and excuses put forward by one victor and all the vanquished. Beneath this, however, there lies a hard crust of fashion and novelty which must go some way towards explaining the phenomenal rise of the SDP in the mid-life of this Government. It is a very fashionable party, and as is the way with fashion, it has attracted all kinds of unlikely supporters to it. There are the conservatives-with-a-conscience, the socialists-with-a-human face, the centrists, the corporatists and "Islington Man". This motley of enthusiasm has so far only produced one distinctive policy theme, not previously put forward by the major parties of either hue.

We are all in favour of less inflation, more employment, and more growth. We are in favour of liberty. We are

against sin. But the only matter on which the SDP has stood out distinctively from the two other Parties which have formed post-War Governments — excluding its commitment to preserve the present frontier of the mixed economy — is that it is in favour of proportional representation. It is an easy tactic when you are losing a game — or at least when you think it might be a difficult game to win — to suggest that the rules should be changed. It is a popular tactic also, because the argument when based only on the narrow point of electoral arithmetic appears to show what an unfair electoral system we have. There may be merit in moving to a more sensitive system of electoral law based partly on proportionality, but that merit does not lie in the proposition that without it our parliamentary system is unable to accommodate political change. It has shown quite adequately in the past that it can accommodate enormous change, though it takes time to do so. We should not begrudge it that time.

The first two members of Parliament were elected to represent Labour, in 1874. It took 50 years to form a Labour Government, and then only a minority one. Britain underwent a period of coalition between 1916 and 1945. Perhaps the phenomenon of the SDP is not just a mid-term protest, facilitated by the ever more bitter arguments in the Labour Party. Perhaps we are witnessing here a similar process of change to that which occurred when the Labour Party replaced the Liberals as the Party of the Left.

However, the election of Mr Jenkins and the assumption that he will become the SDP's leader — at least until he

exposes his tenuous majority once more to the voters at the next General Election — puts in doubt the idea that the SDP will emerge from this process simply as a reconstituted party of the Left. There is obviously some possibility that it will only do that once it has finished off the Conservatives. It is true that the emotional centre of gravity in the SDP springs from its origins among disaffected members of the Labour Party. Moreover it would be hard to find any SDP taproot reaching down far enough into the bedrock of British Conservatism to think that the SDP could really contemplate a future as the natural Party of the Right. Unfortunately, owing to its fashionable reception, it has not yet had to address itself seriously to these issues. The logic of Centrism, and proportional representation, is either an interminable series of coalitions — and do we want that? — or else a one-party state — and do we want that? — even if the one party is a party of the Centre?

No member of the SDP has yet proposed a circular chamber for the House of Commons, yet the language of Centrism which they use does not synchronize with the basically adversarial culture of British politics. A system of two parties exists here and has hitherto shown itself to be flexible enough to accommodate the change or replacement of any particular party.

The SDP has now grown up. It will have to tackle these questions without attempting to reap all the benefits of being fashionable while shouldering none of the responsibilities. Responsibility in politics is about choice. One has to choose, and be seen to choose. That goes as much for the electorate as for the leaders it puts in office.

## ALL IN THE BREEDING

In Ireland bloodstock is zero-rated for VAT and there is a minimal rating in France (on the carcass value). Here (VAT is 15 per cent and the industry could be helped by government. But politicians look at it with a narrow attitude to sport, because they find it an easy source of political and fiscal capital.

In a review in December 1981, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA) reported that VAT was zero-rated in this country, at least until there was harmonization in the European community; they also sought tax relief on stocks and losses. The TBA reported that the racing industry could help itself by providing special prizes and restricted races for British horses. In 1980 French breeders received £3.25m in financial support plus £5.25m in premiums, whereas their British counterparts had a paltry £340,000 in premiums for filles only.

So Britain has to import the best thoroughbred and often loses her own products to foreign buyers. Last year's Derby winner, Shergar, was

bred in Ireland and syndicated for stud for £10m. To the outsider this may seem an extraordinary price to pay for a horse, but this is big business and potentially a sound investment, which is largely passing Britain by. Furthermore, British breeders in the medium and small range are losing money on their produce.

Horse racing has been dubbed "the sport of kings" and it still enjoys the keen support of the Royal Family. Although it continues to be dominated by a wealthy elite — these days as much from Arab countries as from the United States — racing has a wide popular appeal which is unsurpassed.

British racing is reckoned to be the fairest and most varied in the world. It also has a growth potential which could safeguard jobs and benefit the whole economy. It is high time these factors were recognised and British bloodstock was restored to a prominent position in the international sphere by a combination of help from the government and from within the industry itself.

## MUSICAL BUMP

controversial position. Its role as a regulator of the British music scene has been performed in relative obscurity for the last thirty years and on the basis of a carefully constructed mutual understanding with the Department of Employment. For the civil servants it has proved a useful specialist buffer in the somewhat arcane area of regulating imports of serious music.

The challenge from Los Angeles has struck at the heart of VOCA. It has become quite clear that the association represents a loose consensus which has been subject neither to public scrutiny nor to the attention of consumers of serious music. It is a protectionist organization and, like all such organizations, is open to the charge that it is acting against the interests of the consumer. This charge must be moderated by awareness that the classical music industry is an agglomeration of organizations all dependent directly or

indirectly on subsidies. The simple view that it ought to be subject to the same free market disciplines as everybody else should be treated with some caution.

Yet, even after taking into account the extent to which classical music has to be nurtured for the general good of the community, it is difficult to be convinced by the defensive and somewhat parochial appeals of VOCA members to "the rules" or to custom and practice. After all, discrepancies in subsidy arrangements between one country and another could surely be better settled by international agreements aimed at encouraging rather than restricting the flow of talent. Local and undisclosed agreements arrived at as a result of complex and largely unifying compromises with the restrictive instincts of trade unions and local authorities do not help. There is still time for VOCA to think again.

## Surgeon's hungry allies

From Dr H.A. Dewar  
Sir, Mr Denner's letter of March 23 about his leeches had particular interest for me because of his statement that his ward sister gave them jam as a "starter" for them.

When I was house physician in Hammersmith Hospital in 1937 the sister in the ward where I worked was even more considerate. She kept two leeches in a jar as pets, but there was no jam

in it, only water. I suggested to her that they must be hungry and that I could alleviate this symptom each Monday if I gave them a small helping, from one of the blood specimens I used to take that day from each new patient in the ward and which we sent off to the lab. for a Wassermann test in case one of the patients (unknown to us) had syphilis (they almost never did). She was most grateful for the suggestion, but when the first Monday came round she told me,

somewhat diffidently, that she had changed her mind and would rather that I did not give them that particular meal. However, I am sure, she asked, that the blood sample might not be Wassermann-positive?

Yours faithfully,  
H.A. DEWAR,  
Flat 2,  
Wylam Hall,  
Wylam,  
Northumberland.  
March 25.

## Political control and the police

From Mr James Mottram

Sir, I am surprised that during a week of controversy on law and order and the role of police committees no one appears to have referred to the policy adopted by some police committees of ensuring overall majority control by a single political party.

I am a magistrate member of the Merseyside Police Committee. The committee is made up of 20 councillors and 10 magistrates. When the Labour Party won the council of the county council in 1980 they reorganised the police committee in such a way as to give them a majority over all other members. Thus we have a committee comprising 16 Labour councillors, three Conservative councillors, one Liberal councillor and 10 magistrates.

Not content with that, more active involvement of magistrates in a system of no representation, or at best minimal representation, on subcommittees. Last year, in an attempt to achieve greater participation commensurate with their numerical strength, the magistrate members sought to create a second deputy chairmanship for exclusive occupation by a magistrate. The motion was defeated.

It seems to me that the intention of the 1964 Police Act is being eroded by these tactics. Magistrates were appointed to police committees because of their knowledge of law and order matters. Political manoeuvres, such as those I have described, reduce the efficacy of police committees.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MOTTRAM,  
26 Parkbury Court,  
Oxted, Birkbeck,  
Wiltshire, Merseyside.  
March 22.

## The causes of crime

From Mr L. Blom-Cooper QC

Sir, Both the Lord Chief Justice and Lord Scarman in the course of yesterday's law and order debate in the House of Lords (report, March 25) excoriated the venerable of the published criminal statistics and dismissed the recorded figures of crime as both misleading and largely unintelligible. They then both proceeded to propound their theories as to the causes of a "rising crime rate". Whence, may one ask, do they derive the data to support their theories as to the volume of crime in Britain today?

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,  
Goldsmith Building,  
Temple EC4.  
March 25.

## Aid for schools

From Professor S. J. Fraiss

Sir, You refer in your leading article of March 20 to the "turn of the tide" in favour of schooling based on religious and moral values, and of the movement amongst religious minorities in this country to avail themselves of the financial provisions for "church schools" under Butler's 1944 Education Act.

Your news item of the previous day, on the official rejection of an application for state aid by three Jewish schools in Hackney, illustrates how difficult it still is for minorities to obtain recognition of their rights under that Act. The main reason for the rejection given by Mr Rhodes Boyson, the Minister with special responsibility for schools, at a meeting at which I was present was the lack of compliance with new school-building regulations issued after those applications had been submitted. There was no way in which the school authorities could have anticipated these detailed requirements.

The brief reference in the news item to a confidential ILEA report on the schools' costs unnecessarily unfavourable light on the schools. In fact that report also referred very favourably to the "obvious enthusiasm and motivation of the children", and that they subsequently "do well in public examinations". There was no religious bias, either at denominational or general college level, and there is no real difficulty in relation to the curriculum.

Had your correspondent visited the schools, he would have understood why so many parents feel aggrieved at the rejection of their application for state aid on what (as it appears to them) are bureaucratic and technical grounds, which should readily have been surmounted by goodwill from the official side.

Yours sincerely,  
S. J. FRAISS,  
83 West Heath Road, NW3.  
March 22.

## Falklands incident

From Captain John Litchfield, RN

Sir, It would take more than one ship — and a surveying vessel at that — to provide a permanent naval presence 8,000 miles from a home base (letter, March 25) and a knot might have to be cut to provide a force sufficient to deal with little local difficulties, wherever they arise, and to deter more provocative actions.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LITCHFIELD,  
Snowfield,  
Barnstaple,  
Devon.  
March 25.

A comparison in a leading article on MPs' salaries on March 25 between the salaries paid at Westminster and Strasbourg should have made it clear that the pay of British European MPs is tied by statute to that of their Westminster colleagues.

## Wider study of human reproduction

From the Director of the Council for Science and Society

Sir, The setting up by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of a special committee of doctors to consider guidelines for the practice of in vitro fertilization is greatly to be welcomed. So also is the inquiry established by the British Medical Association.

However, as you rightly observe, your leader (February 10), "this is not a matter to be left wholly to doctors". The manner of the begetting of children is of wide social concern and will become more so with the development of further techniques which are in the offing. These might include provision for obtaining a baby of desired sex and the carrying out of genetic screening on, or perhaps fertilized embryo before it is implanted in its mother.

In their letter (February 4) Dr R. Snowden and Professor G. D. Mitchell point out that "At the present time there is no control whatsoever in this country in the establishment of sperm banks and the commercialization of artificial insemination by donor, surrogate motherhood and in vitro fertilization services". The significance of this remark is brought home by your news item (February 17) to the effect that on behalf of the churches a frozen human sperm to European doctors by mail order.

I can report that this council has now completed the setting up of a working party for the purpose of studying the social, ethical and legal aspects of existing and emerging techniques in the field of human reproduction. The working party has a multi-disciplinary membership and, including the implications for the child and family, the problems involved if certain techniques are commercialized, the promising possibilities for the

prevention of genetic disorders, and the appropriate institutional mechanisms which may seem desirable for the purpose of regulation. It will be chaired by Professor G. R. Dunstan, Professor of Moral and Social Theology at King's College, London.

In the absence of a similarly wide-ranging governmental inquiry or departmental committee we hope that our independent approach will complement those studies, mentioned above, which are being undertaken within the medical profession.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH DENBIGH, Director,  
Council for Science and Society,  
34 St Andrews Hill, EC4.  
March 24.

## From the Bishop of London

Sir, Your reporter says (Saturday, March 20) that the Church of England and the Church of Scotland are not conformist churches have given their approval to fertilization outside the womb, providing the couple concerned, but want to speak on behalf of the churches in opposition to the artificial insemination by donor (AID). It needs to be pointed out that the group who compiled the report, while consisting of distinguished and experienced people, could not, and in fact did not, claim to speak on behalf of the churches as a whole. Such authority as their report possesses is the intrinsic authority of a job well done.

Some such further authorization may, in due course, be given to the report, whether by the Free Church Federal Council, the member churches of that council, or other churches including the Church of England. That point has not yet been reached.

Yours faithfully,  
J. GRAHAM LONDON,  
London House,  
8 Barton Street, SW1.  
March 24.

## The Pope's visit

From Mr A. F. Harlow

Sir, In your leading article, "Care for the courtesies" (March 13), you refer to "a few fundamentalist, Calvinistic, isolated and impopular congregations" for whom "no Popery" is still a watchword. I wonder if the opposition to the Pope's visit is as limited as your article suggests?

Writing as a lay member of an Anglican congregation, I believe there may be many thousands of Anglicans who view the Pope's coming with strong reservations, if not with downright protest. It must be said that the volume of recorded figures of crime as both misleading and largely unintelligible. They then both proceeded to propound their theories as to the causes of a "rising crime rate". Whence, may one ask, do they derive the data to support their theories as to the volume of crime in Britain today?

Yours faithfully,  
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,  
Goldsmith Building,  
Temple EC4.  
March 25.

I believe a referendum now on the issue of state aid for religious members of the Church of England would bring a surprising degree of opposition to the surface and show, not for the first time, that their Graces the archbishops and bishops may be out of touch with the rank and file.

The reasons for such opposition are various: in some cases suspicion of the motives of the Roman Catholic Church; in others a feeling of a threat to the status quo; but there is also the religious imagination. Those of us who for many years have worked and prayed for the cause of Christian unity in this city see it quite otherwise.

As the Toxteth riots demonstrated last summer, we are sadly divided community. There are serious divisions between blacks and whites, between employed and unemployed, between well-housed and badly housed, between the religious and the secular, and between political groups whose partisanship is not always for the wellbeing of our community.

In the past the different Christian communities were tarred with the same brush, and from time to time (as on the occasion of the recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury) these old animosities come to the surface. But in recent years the churches have been increasingly taken to heart the New Testament insistence that the followers of Christ are "entrusted with the message of reconciliation". Such a message, far from being a waste of time and energy, as Mr Gardiner appears to insist, is

the significance of the mother of Jesus, the completeness of Christ's work on the Cross and the final authority of Holy Scripture.

These differences are not to be dispelled by formal theological statements which so often have to depend on ambiguity to be acceptable.

Yours faithfully,  
A. F. HARLOW,  
24 Orchard Drive, Watford.

From Mr James Coombe  
Sir, The aptly named Miss Smoker (March 23) is clouding the pages of your newspaper with her concern over the Pope's visit. At least one of your readers, and a Protestant at that, not only welcomes the forthcoming arrival of the good and salty man, but wholeheartedly supports the views he is alleged to espouse.

The apostolic exhortation on the family merely reiterates the old-fashioned virtues which have withstood the passage of time and will continue to do so long after Miss Smoker has stopped puffing and puffing her atheistic views about the place.

In the meantime let us consign Miss Smoker's polythene capes and their offensive slogans to their proper place, the incinerator, and welcome the Pope with due courtesy and respect.

Yours truly,  
JAMES COOMBE,  
50 Bramley Avenue,  
Coulson,  
Surrey.

## Growing church unity

From the Very Reverend Dr Edward H. Patey

Sir, From a safe distance of 200 miles, the Rev Tom Gardiner (March 17) assures your readers that the ecumenical endeavour on Merseyside is "wasteful of time and energy, so sapping the religious imagination." Those of us who for many years have worked and prayed for the cause of Christian unity in this city see it quite otherwise.

As the Toxteth riots demonstrated last summer, we are sadly divided community. There are serious divisions between blacks and whites, between employed and unemployed, between well-housed and badly housed, between the religious and the secular, and between political groups whose partisanship is not always for the wellbeing of our community.

In the past the different Christian communities were tarred with the same brush, and from time to time (as on the occasion of the recent visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury) these old animosities come to the surface. But in recent years the churches have been increasingly taken to heart the New Testament insistence that the followers of Christ are "entrusted with the message of reconciliation". Such a message, far from being a waste of time and energy, as Mr Gardiner appears to insist, is

essential to our understanding of the Gospel.

But a divided Church can win no credibility in preaching reconciliation to a divided community. Our urgent search for unity amongst the churches of Merseyside is not just a game of ecclesiastical jigsaw puzzles. It is part of our deeply serious concern to bring the message of reconciliation to a community in desperate need of that good news.

It is certainly a libel on our church leaders here to write of their growing unity, as Mr Gardiner does, as "shop window dressing". Certainly press photographs of Bishop David Sheppard and Archbishop Derek Worlock holding hands and smiling at one another may give that impression. But behind such pictures is a remarkable and regular commitment on behalf of the church — leaders here (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, United Reformed, Baptist and Salvation Army) to study, pray and work together in the name of Christ for the benefit of the secular community they all serve.

This is not window-dressing, it is basic Christianity. After over 40 years in the Anglican ministry, I see in this new spirit in the churches of Merseyside a marvellous sign of hope.

Yours faithfully,  
EDWARD H. PATEY,  
The Cathedral, Liverpool.

## Cricket and S Africa

From Mr Steven J. Baker and Mr J. W. Wheeler

Sir, Hitherto, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) has failed to explain satisfactorily the paramount importance of the cricket bat as a stick to beat apartheid. Considering the present malaise of the England Test side, any England cricketer is far too important to cricket itself to be used as a pawn in international politics.

The entire free world supports India's fight against racial inequality (despite noted inconsistencies within that country), but it is not yet so economically weak and ideologically bankrupt to need cricket as a sanction against South Africa. There must surely be other, more effective means of

promoting social change in unequal societies.

We therefore suggest that the Indian Government renounces its undemocratic manipulation of cricket as a queen on the chessboard of international relations. We also submit that the role of the TCCB is to represent the interests of English cricket, not to act as the rubber stamp or tool of a foreign policy based on cricket tours.

Graham Gooch is being paid to play cricket, not to support apartheid. We should not endorse either South African or Indian attempts to make political capital out of popular sport.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN J. BAKER,  
J. W. WHEELER,  
Faculty of Laws,  
King's College,  
Strand, WC2.  
March 21.

## Foundation in hatred

From Professor George Steiner

Sir, I value Mr Arnold Wesker's contribution (feature, March 20) to the debate now raging over the production of *The Portage to San Cristobal of A.H.* at the Mermaid Theatre, and Alec McCowen's overwhelming performance in the part of the fictional "Hitler".

Mr Wesker is entirely right when he says that both my novel and its scenic adaptation spring from the belief that the climate of political cant, oppression, torture, lunatic armaments, social deprivation and ecological destruction in which we conduct our current lives is, in some sense, a posthumous triumph of such systematic inhumanities as those of Stalinism and of Nazism. It is my conviction that we are accomplices in that which leaves us indifferent. Hence the challenge of "A.H." to reader and audience. Hence his question: "could the monstrousness in our time have been devised, could it have been without you and you, and you?"

Despite Mr Wesker's resort to sociological banalities, no adequate secular explanation has been offered to account for the national self-destruction in Hitler's hatred of the Jew. Nor can we explain in socio-historical terms the persistence of antisemitism in countries which have seen their Jews driven out or murdered (eg Poland). The final roots of such phenomena are of a metaphysical order.

Taking Hitler's statement, "the Jews have invented conscience", as a starting point, I have put forward, in my essays and fiction, the hypothesis that antisemitism is, ultimately, an attempt to eradicate the demands of the ideal, the exactions of perfection, the "blackmail of the absolute", as these are manifest in Mosaic Law, in the teachings of Christ, and in the post-messianic aspirations of Marx. In short: it is within the long crisis of monotheism that we may come to recognize the dimensions of the hatred of Jew and Judaism.

There is in this hypothesis no "mass psychosis", no "self-flagellation". On the contrary, I regard it as an immense privilege to belong to an ethnic tradition and to a moral imagination which (whatever one's failings) have striven to enact and to communicate to others, the claims of transcendent justice. There is no prouder status than that of the lightning rod which injustice, oppression and political bestiality are drawn to in times of storm. The accusations hurled by "A.H." in the novel and the play are inhuman with jealousy, with paralytic envy. They honour, they seek to consume those upon whom they fall, precisely as lightning honours the lightning rod.

Thus it is Mr Wesker's "my Shylock" — I thought him Shakespeare's — who speaks of the "election" through Abraham and Moses as a "curse". To be obsessed with justice — eschatological, messianic, social — to feel unloved in the city of man because so much in that city is inhuman, may well be a tragic condition. And one that provokes ever-renewed menace. But it is at the very same time, as the masters of suffering have taught, a benediction and an ornament.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE STEINER,  
Churchill College,  
Cambridge.  
March 21

## Arts initiative

From Sir Hugh Casson and others

Sir, We are delighted to learn that the Minister for Arts, the Right Hon Paul Channon, MP, has given his backing to the movement for a national Arts Day — the first to be celebrated on June 24.

Great Britain's arts, past and present, are a national glory worthy of receiving wider recognition and a greater measure of national pride. Arts Day can become a source of renewed national consciousness and community spirit.

We applaud this initiative which will set aside a special day each year for showing how the arts can enrich our lives — every day.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGH CASSON,  
JOHN BETJEMAN,  
MARTYN GOFF,  
GEORGE HOWARD,  
JENNIE LEE,  
JOHN MOORE,  
JOHN TOOLEY

Arts Day, A Nationwide Celebration of the Arts,  
3 Earl Road,  
SW14.  
March 18.

## Candida

From Mr N. R. Beaumont

Sir, Rummaging through my grandmother's papers, I came across the following: "A Victorian Young Lady's Opinion of the Male Sex".

Rabbits: Harmless, good natured, useful for running errands. Rats: To be avoided in every way, confidence tricksters. Nincompoops: Harmless, dull, brainless, well-meaning, foolish. Juggles: Flabby, dull, harmless. Manlets: Intelligent but would never set the Thames on fire; reliable, promising, good-natured. Man: Very scarce, utterly reliable, intelligent, courageous, with sense of humour. Happily grandmother married a Man.

Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL R. BEAUMONT,  
3 Lovelace Road,  
West Dulwich, SE21.  
March 25.

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everything from dog licenses to world government. He is like him, but he could do with him. But between the two fascinating areas of speculation there are one or two practical questions which voters are liable to ask as they go to the polls.

This will present the Alliance leaders with a dilemma of judgment. They do not want to tie their hands by presenting their opponents with too inviting a target, the pre-emptive vote. But the breakthrough that it creates in general election of a most comfortable margin of victory. It must therefore be a sufficient indication of what is credible as a prospect.

In particular it will show that his ideas have been thought through in a critical areas of law, policy and decentralisation. Even after the serious re-ignition of Hillhead, the Alliance is clear.

The Alliance will find it harder to strike the balance on policy commitments because there is a fundamental contradiction in the nature of its support which becomes more and more one sees the reactions of individual voters in very different circumstances. There are many who are attracted to the Alliance as the sensible group in between, neither Thatcherite nor Labour. The Alliance appeals to these voters because of what it would not do. It offers them the prospect of practical, realistic government, as against the extreme errors of other parties.

But there are others who work to the Alliance for more radical reasons. We've given a chance to these voters as on the doorstep which means that they are looking for a miracle cure. When the first shock of support is felt, the second demand for change will be a possibility for the Alliance to produce a policy to satisfy to one who is alarmed by the threat.

At such a time, unless it is a miracle cure, the Alliance is likely to experience some difficulty in convincing these unorthodox supporters. But on the other hand, it may reasonably hope to ride on the momentum of Hillhead.

It has been said that it can only swing the balance in a narrow margin. But it is a narrow margin that it can swing in the prospect of defeat.

## The risks they run

JOINTS

Excessive running, particularly on hard surfaces, may give rise to osteoarthritis in the knees and hips in middle age.

Cartilages in the knee are easily damaged by excessive twisting.

Young joints may be permanently damaged if their suppleness is exploited by gymnastics.

## BONES

The neck, as well as being damaged in traditional sports such as rugby and wrestling, can also be injured in tennis, and by a poorly coordinated serve or swing.

Excessive running on hard surfaces jars the spine. Hip injuries can occur and sprains can be affected by constant stress.

Runners develop little bumps of bone on their knees and shins which are badly irritated by hammer toes and bunions.

Cracks in the bones of the foot to march fractures and blisters. Even an occasional fall can lead to the two leg bones (tibia) of the foot may collapse (osteoporosis) in old age.

## SOFT TISSUE

Leg, arm and stomach muscles may be strained or torn.

Excessive exercise in a crowded person particularly in the lower back and buttocks may lead to a hernia. A hernia is a protrusion of an organ through a weak spot in the abdominal wall.

Over-exercise can damage the muscles of the arm and hand. Tennis elbow and forms of inflammation of the tendon sheath may follow repetitive exertion.

Inflammation of the tough tissue inside the heel











§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

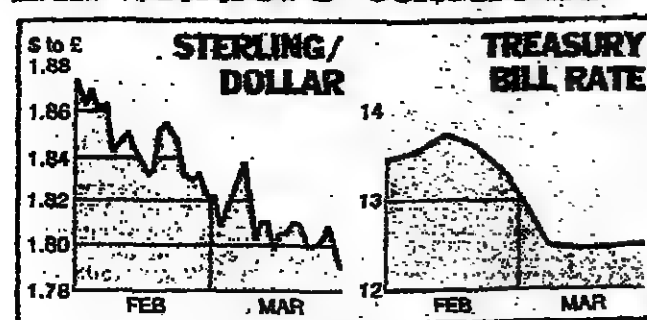
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## BUSINESS NEWS

## Bill bidders cautious



Bidders for Treasury bills continued to take a cautious line on interest rates at yesterday's weekly Treasury bill tender. The average rate of discount at which three-month bills were allotted rose marginally from 12.48 to 12.51 per cent. In the money markets period rates were also slightly firmer, partly in response to the downward pressure on sterling against the dollar.

## Belfast firm wins China order

The Belfast petro-chemical engineers, Irish Bridge, has won a contract for a Chinese government offshore oil drilling programme in the Yellow Sea. The initial £210m contract will be multiplied if it runs for five years. The deal was announced in Belfast yesterday by Irish Bridge chairman, Mr Ronald Knowles, who said that it would employ up to 150 people, the first of whom will be sent to China within six months.

## Lagos may ease import curb

The Nigerian Central Bank's ban on the processing of applications for foreign exchange and new letters of credit is expected to continue for about four weeks, banking sources said in Lagos. The ban might be lifted within two weeks for essential imports, they added. Meanwhile, existing approvals for foreign exchange and letters of credit are expected to be honoured.

## Maxwell buying Arnold

Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press is buying E J Arnold & Son, Leeds-based family printing group whose chairman is Professor Roland Smith, for an undisclosed sum. Shareholders representing 51 per cent of the ordinary shares and 92 per cent of the preference shares have irrevocably accepted the offer. The deal follows last month's attack on Professor Smith by members of the Arnold family. He earns £11,000 a year as chairman of the educational publishers, and is also the £50,000-a-year part-time chairman of the Harrods group.

## Luxembourg and Belgium heal rift

Belgium and Luxembourg have agreed to reinforce their monetary association, defusing for the time being their dispute over Belgium's recent currency devaluation. But in talks between the Prime Ministers of the two countries last night, Luxembourg failed to win reforms in terms of the 60-year-old monetary partnership.

## Stylus departure

Mr David Garner, senior partner with the former stockbroker Halliday, Simpson, has resigned as chairman and director of Diamond Stylus. Mr Garner, 52, was secretary of the Lancashire-based stylus maker, refused to comment last night on the sudden departure.

## MARKET SUMMARY

## Leaders shed up to 6p

## LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 557.7 down 2.2  
FT 100 68.69 down 0.22  
FT all share 323.0 down 1.02  
Bargains 22,902

The last account of the financial year ended on a dull note with a lack of investment buying pushing the FT index down 4.7 in the afternoon but in after hours there was a slight rally and it closed down 2.2 at 557.7, a fall on the account of 9.2.

Interest centred on special situations with Federated Land improving on the increased offer from BP Kent but ending unchanged at 145p. BP Kent was 1p easier at 69p.

Most leading shares showed falls ranging from 2p to 6p, with the FT 100 down 0.22, the FT all share down 1.02, and the FT 100 down 0.22. The FT 100 was 1p easier at 69p.

Unigate shed 6p to 81p after a bullish comment from some brokers on the meat products division. After a healthy 38 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £20.1m at the half, way stage, estimates for the full year have been trimmed to around £40m.

Metal Box was up of 12p at 162p, after announcing factory closures and 200 redundancies.

Hentys dipped 1p to 107p as Mr Gordon Chandler, chairman, warned that a recovery in demand would not offset losses in January and February caused by the

severe weather. Recovery prospects were more likely to show through in 1982-83 rather than in the current year.

Habitat-Mothercare was 2p off at 130p ahead of the first figures from the enlarged group, while elsewhere in stores, Woodworth was 1p easier at 50p, with a line of 1m shares on offer.

Auctioneer, Sotheby, soared 38p to 353p, on renewed bid from a half-hearted rally and slipped back with long dates closing up to 2% off, but there were isolated gains of up to 2% in low coupon short dated issues.

After recovering from a pre-tax loss of £27.0m, Yeomanly Carpet shares slipped from 5p to 4p. The Dublin-based group warned that the first quarter of 1982 shows the serious deterioration in the market, and it does not foresee a return to profits in the current year.

Equity turnover on March 25 was £141.32m (20,162 bargains).

Commodities

The International Tin Agreement, which takes effect provisionally in July, has been accepted by the European Economic Community according to the Indonesian Minister of Mines and Energy.

In London, the tin market continued to drift lower during the afternoon with general liquidation evident on an otherwise featureless market, dealers said. Three month standard grade traded down to £7,225 during the late hour to show a loss of £85 from the previous day's high. Traders said some buffer stock manager was appearing to be circulating below current levels although no fresh business was reported. The contango continued to hover around £215.

Cocoa futures in London staged a shotcovering rally at the final call after having fallen in late session to new nine-month lows in the key trading near May contract by breaking through the £1,000 per tonne barrier to £998. May finally traded at £1,011. Dealers noted. Losses ranged from £32 in spot March to £9 in July 1982.

Robusta coffee futures in London traded quietly throughout the day with operators hesitant about taking new positions ahead of the weekend, traders said. Trade buying and light short-covering combined with the weakness of sterling and technical lightness on near March to show a loss of £28, mostly maintained until late in the session.

## Dollar gains on money supply fears

By Frances Williams

The dollar made fresh gains on international currency markets yesterday as fears grew that rapid monetary growth in the United States could drive up interest rates over the coming weeks.

The pound, which has held up well against the strengthening dollar in recent days, suffered a sharp reversal in early trading. It fell to a low of \$1.7620 at one stage before recovering to close in London at \$1.7905, down 85 points on the day and the lowest level since late September.

The markets were quiet but nervous ahead of the release last night of the latest American weekly money supply figures. To get back on target these should show a fall but many analysts were predicting a rise of up to \$3,000m. These immediate worries have been overlaid by fears that the money supply will increase rapidly in April as it has done in previous years because of tax rebates and social security payments.

The prospect that the Federal Reserve Board may be obliged to tighten credit policy to contain monetary growth, thereby driving up interest rates, has led to rising Eurodollar deposit rates and a strengthening dollar.

Dealers interpreted sterling's fall as an adjustment to a more sensible parity against Continental currencies, notably the Deutschmark, which have been

Finance Bill  
Complications set in to capital gains tax

By Our Economics Staff

Provisions for indexing capital gains tax published in the Finance Bill yesterday are extremely complicated and new computer programming and paperwork are likely to be immense.

At present shares held in the same company are "pooled" and treated as having been acquired at an average price.

Because indexation does not apply for the first year of ownership, it will not be possible to retain the pooling rule for acquisition on or after April 5. Shares acquired after this date will be subject to new identification rules.

Under these, disposals will be considered in chronological order. On each disposal, shares will be identified first with shares acquired in the previous 12 months, on first in, first out basis; and next with shares acquired more than 12 months before disposal, on a last in, first out basis.

Any tax liability on disposals in 1981/82 will not be affected, says the revenue. But there is no straightforward way of applying the 12-month waiting period to acquisitions of pooled shares in that year.

The general effect is to treat part of the April 1982 holding as acquired, for indexation purposes, during 1981/82.

In addition, where there is no such excess but in the period from March 1982 to the end of 1981-82, the share pool, or part of it, has been disposed of and replaced by fresh shares, these are to be treated as acquired on the replacement date.

Lucas has won the battle with Chloride to become the sole batteries supplier to BL Cars. But last night, the loser complained of "unfair competition" and threatened possible legal action.

Both companies had been sharing the 500,000 batteries a year business and the loss of such a contract will almost certainly lead to redundancies among the 700 workers at Chloride's Dagenham factory.

BL's purchasing strategy is now geared to single sourcing of volume components to obtain more competitive prices. The improvement in labour relations at suppliers' factories over recent years has removed the need for the protection of a second supplier. In practice, no second supplier can step into the breach in time to prevent assembly lines stopping.

Chloride said last night. We believe the decision went against us because Lucas's quotation was linked to the pricing policy covering a complete package of electrical equipment. If this is the case, it appears to us to be unfair competition and we are seeking advice to decide whether we have any legal redress. No one likes to lose an order in such a highly competitive

Packaging group to close three plants  
Metal Box cuts 1,200 jobs

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Metal Box, Europe's largest packaging group, yesterday announced that it would cut a further 1,200 jobs and close three of its plants in the latest phase of a rationalisation programme.

The company is closing a food can factory at Leicester, a plant producing beverage cans at Westborough, Greater Manchester, and a central heating radiator plant at Monmouth. All the closures are expected to be completed by early summer.

Over the past 20 months the company has been forced to carry out extensive surgery involving plant closures and about 7,000 redundancies.

In a statement the company said that the cost of the latest closures and the continuing rationalisation which has been implemented over the past year would be charged as extraordinary items in the financial year to the end of this month, and the overall loss was expected to be above the £21m.

Mr Denis Allport, the chairman, whose remuneration rose by almost 50 per cent in 1981 from £34,000 to £57,000, at the half year in November announced an improved half time dividend of 7.2p gross and said this



Denis Allport: rise in remuneration

## Profit will not save CEBG chief

By Jonathan Davis

Energy correspondent

Mr Glyn England, who looks certain to lose his job as chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, said yesterday that the CEBG was set to make an operating profit of about £320m in the financial year that ends in a few days. This will be £60m above the board's most recent forecast, and compares with an operating profit last year of £305m.

Mr England said that the profit was based on sales of 209 terawatt-hours, compared with a target of 212 terawatt-hours. It excludes interest charges, which are likely to turn the figures into an overall loss as they did last year.

This improved financial performance is unlikely to earn Mr England reappointment when his term as chairman expires in the next few weeks.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the energy Secretary, is expected to have decided to replace Mr England as soon as possible, although no successor has yet been announced.

At least one other of the board's five full-time members is thought to be on the verge of losing his job.

No fewer than four of the five have terms of office which expire between now and May, and no reappointments have yet been made. It is thought an announcement is imminent. They include Mr Fred Bonner, the deputy chairman, and Mr Dennis Lomer, board member in charge of construction.

Mr England, who has consistently defended state industries against attacks from Government ministers, said that the board's thermal efficiency was expected to be 0.3 per cent above last year's record, saving £30m.

Thermal efficiency is the efficiency with which coal or oil is converted to electricity.

The chairman also said that the CEBG had managed to hold its fuel costs at about 12 per cent last year's levels, compared with a forecast of 17.7 per cent. Manpower had been reduced by 7 per cent, with the total salary bill rising by 2.7 per cent.

## Crown Agents given new profit target

By Rupert Morris

The Crown Agents are to be set clear financial targets for the next three years, and must repay £10m of Government debt, Mr Neil Martin, Minister for Overseas Development, said yesterday.

In a written Commons reply, Mr Martin said the Government was looking for a progressive improvement in the Crown Agents' financial performance. The Crown Agents, who provide commercial, financial and professional services to about 100 governments and more than 200 overseas public authorities, made a £2m profit before tax in 1980 the last fully audited year.

They hope to make about £240m from the sale of their Australian property interests, which include the Hilton Hotel in Sydney and office buildings and shopping complexes in Sydney and Melbourne.

## Opec steps in to shield Nigeria

By our energy correspondent

Nigeria's oil crisis yesterday prompted the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to threaten to build emergency oil stocks.

Meeting barely a week after its last one in Vienna.

Dr Mansoor Oteiba, Opec director, who is also oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, said the

implication is clearly that Opec is ready to consider further cuts in its efforts to defend the existing pricing structure, based around a reference price of \$34 a barrel. The Vienna meeting last weekend decided to place a new ceiling on Opec output of 17.5

million barrels a day, a third below what Opec was producing at the start of last year.

Oil industry sources in London confirmed that Nigerian oil sales have slumped from around 1.2 million barrels a day to about 600,000 since last weekend. It is clear that many oil companies have refused to take Nigerian crude at its present price of \$35.50 a barrel when North Sea oil — which it is in priced at \$31 a barrel.

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THE M&G GROUP

## FAMILY MONEY

### Unstable franc a boon to tourists

The fall in the French franc this week will cheer holiday-makers who have planned an Easter break in France. And it may be the influx of foreign currency during the tourist season which will save the franc from devaluation.

The franc is vulnerable because French inflation is running at a level way above that of most of its partners in the European Monetary System (EMS). What has happened to the franc is that French investors, aware that rising inflation usually brings about a fall in the currency, have been carrying out their traditional operations of taking their cash out of the country.

For the short-term it looks attractive to have money in the French franc — one-month rates have been as high as 50 per cent and overnight rates 75 per cent as the central bank fought against the speculators. (See family money market for current rates). Many banks in the foreign exchange market take the view that the central bank will be able to stave off a devaluation of the currency in the tourist season. Several million tourists buy French francs in the summer.

At some stage the French franc will probably have to devalue again. It was made more vulnerable when the Belgian franc devalued, because until then the Belgian currency was the weakest in the EMS. Exporters had become more reluctant to convert their dollars or Deutschmarks back to French francs, adding to the drain on the currency.



lan Ball, UDT's treasurer

## UDT's seven-day wonder

United Dominions Trust came back into the market this week with its highly successful Average Rate Deposit scheme — a seven day money fund which offers investors with £5,000 or more, whole-sale money market rates on their deposits.

Interest currently being offered by UDT is 13.375 per cent which compares reasonably well with the competitive Simco and Tyndall. Both these money funds currently offer slightly higher rates at 13.6 per cent and 13.5 per cent respectively.

The original Average Rate Deposit scheme was so popular, taking in over £150m, that UDT had to close it to new investors last September. Remaining depositors in the old scheme which has since been run as a closed fund are being given the option of switching to the Mark II version or taking their cash. The rate paid on the new Average Rate Deposit scheme is approximately 1 per cent less than on the old scheme.

The differential between the 10 per cent or 10.25 per cent offered by the high street banks on their seven-day deposit accounts, and the 13 per cent plus, available from the money funds, is sufficiently large for investors to defect from the banks in considerable numbers.

Most disgruntled will be small investors with the Trustee Savings Bank which now owns UDT. These savers are being paid between 7 and 10 per cent in most cases with a few TSBs like the Aberdeen, Birmingham and Channel Islands. Matching the money funds 13 per cent. The average balance on TSB investment accounts is only £883, so few small savers will be eligible to take advantage of the more generous rates available from the sister operation UDT.

Interest on the Average Rate Deposit scheme is calculated weekly and is based on the average of dealing rates for seven day notice funds in the local authority market during the preceding week. UDT offers 0.5 per cent below this rate which is effectively its management charge. It sounds complicated but all the investor needs to know is that historically the rate paid has beaten that offered by the banks for seven-day deposit by a considerable margin.

Indeed it has generally beaten the "grossed up" building society rate too. Money funds are particularly attractive to children and the elderly who pay little or no tax. Interest is paid without deduction of basic rate tax so there is no need to get involved in complicated claims for tax refunds.

UDT's fund pays interest at quarterly intervals and seven days' notice is required for withdrawals. Minimum deposit is £5,000. Both withdrawals and deposits must be for at least £1,000.

In some respects the scheme run by Simco, a subsidiary of the giant financial services group, Mercantile House, and Tyndall, the Bristol-based fund managers and licensed deposit takers, are more attractive.

Like UDT, both Simco and Tyndall's schemes are seven day notice accounts, but Simco's minimum investment is only £1,000 with additional deposits or withdrawals fixed at £500. Interest is paid half yearly or on total repayment of the deposit.

Simco also runs dollar funds on similar lines but here the minimum is much higher at \$25,000. Tyndall requires a minimum initial investment of £2,500 and pays interest quarterly. In addition, account holders can have a cheque book. If you give seven days' notice of withdrawal there is no penalty, but using the cheque book facility, 7 days' interest will be deducted on the amount withdrawn from the day the cheque is received back at Tyndall's office. Given that the recipient of the cheque will probably sit on it for at least 24 hours before paying it into the bank, and allowing for

the three days it takes to clear a cheque, the loss of interest is usually minimal.

All three money funds have been in existence for several years now and it is surprising how slow the banks' customers have been to take advantage of this considerably more attractive opportunity.

Clearly many savers are simply unaware of the existence of the money funds, and do not realize what a raw deal they are getting from their bank.

There are still large numbers of non-taxpayers putting their money into building societies and they too would do much better with a money fund.

Reluctance to move might be attributable to straightforward apathy in some cases, but there may also be a genuine concern for security.

Investors need have no fears on this score. UDT is owned by the Trustee Savings Bank, Simco is part of a multi-million pound financial services group, Mercantile House, which is itself directly under the control of the Bank of England, and Tyndall, as a licensed deposit taking institution, is also supervised by the Bank. Further details are available from Simco: 01-236 0233, UDT: 01-623 3020 or Tyndall 0272 732241.

Lorna Bourke

## MONEY TALK

### Spa bond issue at 10.35%

Investors looking for a fixed-rate short-term investment will be pleased to see an issue of Leamington Spa Building Society's "Spa Bond". The new version will be available from April 1 and offers a return of 10.35 per cent over the 12-month term.

Most building society investments are variable rate accounts — the Spa Bond guarantees to pay the fixed rate of 10.35 per cent, net of basic rate tax. Building societies will be paying 8.75 per cent on ordinary share accounts from April 1.

### Trust at discount

Unit trusts at a discount? It sounds too good to be true but the Manchester firm of Charlotte House Financial Services is offering a 1 per cent discount on all purchases of unit trusts. It is simply rebating one per cent of the 3 per cent commission it is entitled to as a "qualified intermediary", recognised by the Unit Trust Association.

The rebate is paid in cash, within approximately 28 days of your purchase. Charlotte House expects you to make your own choice of unit trust, however, though it produces a monthly list of recommendations.

### Flexishares

Flexishares from Peterborough Building Society will still be paying 10 per cent net of basic rate tax, even after the rate adjustment on April 1. Minimum investment is £2,000 and income can be taken monthly, a facility which 20 per cent of investors use. Withdrawals are available on 28 days notice.

### Payments cover

Housebuyers can insure against the financial consequences of redundancy through a scheme set up by the National Association of Estate Agents. For a premium of £39 the mortgage repayments will be made for a period of up to two years, in the event of the borrower being made redundant.

The cover lasts two years but can be renewed annually, provided there is no change in the original mortgage.

### Saturday service

Bristol & West Building Society is extending its facilities with 12-hour counter service, six days a week at its main Bristol banking hall.

Payments and withdrawals can be made from 9 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday, and there will also be a Saturday afternoon service for homebuyers who find difficulty getting to the branch during office hours. Staff will be on duty at Bristol & West's Broad Quay head office until 5 pm on Saturdays to deal with mortgage applications and advise on house purchase.

The opening hours are an experiment and there is as yet no commitment to extend the service to other branches.

Most building society offices open on Saturday mornings when banks are closed and the move by Bristol & West is yet another round in the battle between the banks and building societies for personal account customers.

### Growth bonds

For basic rate taxpayers, there can be very little to better the 12 per cent net of basic rate tax being offered on two income and growth bonds from Manulife. Both are four-year fixed-term investments; one provides a guaranteed income of 12 per cent net of basic rate tax and the other guaranteed growth of 12 per cent. Minimum investment is £1,000 and interest on the income bond is paid annually. The £1,000 growth bond will be worth £1,574 on redemption at the end of the four-year term.

## M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27/28 Loyal Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

### The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'se	Gross	Yld	Actual	P/E	Dividend
129	100		Ass Brit Ind CULS	129	—	10.0	7.8	—	—	—
75	62		Airsprung Group	75	—	4.7	6.4	11.6	16.0	—
51	33		Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5	—
205	187		Bardon Hill	198	—	9.7	4.9	9.6	11.7	—
107	100		CCL 11% Conv Pref	107	—	15.7	14.7	—	—	—
104	63		Deborah Services	63	—	6.0	9.5	3.1	5.9	—
131	97		Frank Horsell	125	—	6.4	5.1	11.4	23.3	—
83	39		Frederick Parker	78x4	—	6.4	8.2	4.0	7.6	—
78	46		George Blair	53	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	92		Ind Prec Castings	97	—	7.3	7.5	7.0	10.5	—
109	100		Isis Cons Pref	101	—	15.7	14.5	—	—	—
113	94		Jackson Group	97	—	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9	—
130	108		James Burrough	116	—	8.7	7.5	8.5	10.6	—
334	248		Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8	—
64	51		Scruttons "A"	64	—	5.3	8.3	9.8	9.1	—
222	159		Turday & Carlisle	159	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5	—
15	10		Twinkl Ord	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
80	66		Twinkl 15% ULS	79x	—	15.0	18.9	—	—	—
44	25		Unilock Holdings	25	—	8.0	12.0	4.5	7.6	—
103	73		Walter Alexander	79	—	6.4	8.1	5.2	9.2	—
261	212		W. S. Yeates	231	—	14.5	8.3	6.0	12.1	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146



Antony Milford of Framlington: opportunities

## Framlington bets on a recovery

If past performance is anything to go by, the Recovery Trust launched this week by Framlington should be a runaway success. Framlington's track record as successful unit trust managers is impressive. Over seven years to December 31, 1981, Framlington's Capital Trust — the first of their stable of seven — came top of the general funds league table and since its launch in 1969 has shown capital growth of 306 per cent.

Two years later Framlington set up an income trust which has done equally well, showing 177 per cent capital growth with an increase in income from £47.40 per £1,000 invested to £134.64 in 1981.

Units in Framlington's International Growth Fund have nearly quadrupled in value since its launch in October 1976 and Framlington's other trusts have turned in respectable profits.

The Recovery Trust comes on the market at what looks like the right time to take advantage of the turnaround in British industry. "There will be a lot of recovery opportunities over the next

few years," says Antony Milford, who is managing the trust.

"Some will be individual companies, others whole sectors emerging from recession. For Recovery Trust I hope to take advantage of both for a good spread of shares with possibilities of exceptional growth."

Mr Milford makes it plain that he is looking for genuine recovery situations, not simply shares which happen to have fallen in price. "Virtually the whole of British manufacturing industry is in a recovery situation," he says, but the fund will have the freedom to invest overseas as well as in Britain.

He expects to be putting about 75 per cent of the fund into British shares with the balance going overseas — mainly in the United States in the short term.

Recovery funds carry a greater risk than the less volatile growth funds, but the potential rewards are commensurately higher. Antony Milford believes that a unit trust is the best route for small investors.

## Boarders repelled

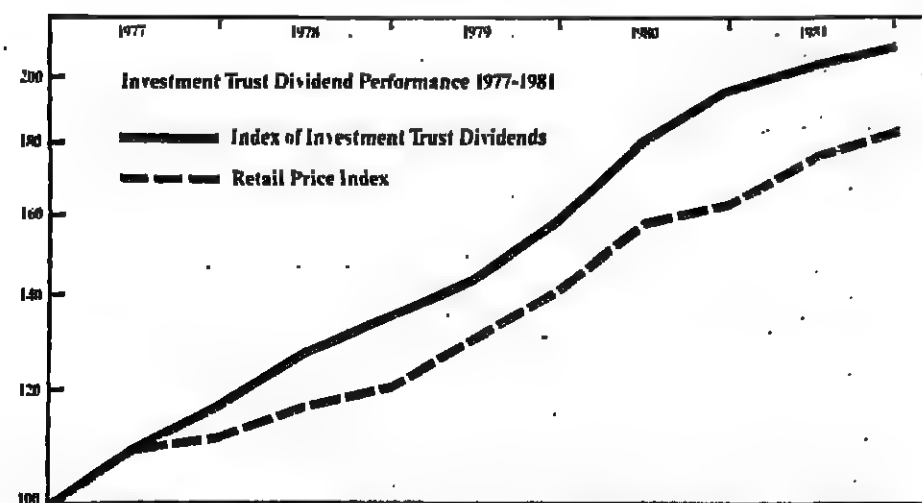
The movement towards greater member participation in the affairs of building societies suffered a setback yesterday when several members who stood for election to the board of Nationwide Building Society were, once again, defeated.

Mr Paul Badley who has stood every year for some

time now came nearest to election with some 30,000 votes, less than half the votes for Sir Peter Trenc and Mr Eric Cassford, the two retiring directors who were both re-elected. Mr P. F. J. Punt who had made good use of the member's right to propose changes to the society's rules by tabling 21 resolutions, managed 20,000 votes.

# Many have tried to help you to beat inflation. Investment Trusts succeeded.

If you're a private investor running hard not to be overtaken by inflation, you should consider the record of Investment Trusts. While past performance is not necessarily a guide to future achievement, the graph below shows that the rise in Investment Trust dividends over the 5 year period to the end of December 1981 was greater than the rise in the Retail Price Index.



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THE ASSOCIATION OF INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES



EDITED BY LORNA BOURKE

## Reducing the cost of giving — with Sir Geoffrey's help



If you have not yet made over any money, apart from the annual exemptions, it pays to do so as soon as possible and for as large an amount you can afford. For it is the most recent 10-year period that will be taken into account when assessing liability.

Capital Transfer Tax Post Budget	Death Rate %	Lifetime Rate %
Up to £55,000	Nil	Nil
£55,001 to £75,000	30	15
£75,001 to £100,000	35	17.5
£100,001 to £130,000	40	20
£130,001 to £165,000	45	22.5
£165,001 to £200,000	50	25
£200,001 to £250,000	55	30
£250,001 to £350,000	60	35
£350,001 to £1,250,000	70	45
Over £1,250,000	75	50

Margaret Drummond

Two friendly Budgets in a row have taken most of the challenge, some would say agony, out of avoiding Capital Transfer Tax. With the promise of index linking for both thresholds and rate bands in the future, CTT is fast becoming a future tax — at least for the living who are in a position to plan their affairs.

The Budget left unchanged the basic individual exemption of £3,000 which can be given away in any year without any penalty in the future. Anyone who has not so far used this exemption in the 1981-82 tax year should do so before April 6. For married couples the exemption level is doubled. Transfers between husband and wife are exempt.

CTT for married couples works on quite different principles from Capital Gains Tax, where spouses are still, rather unfairly, taxed together.

Has there been a wedding in the family this year? Parents of the bride and bridegroom have an exemption of £5,000 each for wedding gifts to the happy couple. Grandparents have a £2,500 exemption. Any number of gifts to different people up to £250 each are also exempt.

If you did not use up your £2,000 exemption for 80-81 you can carry it forward to this tax year — provided you use up all your current year exemption first. You cannot carry any unused exemption forward more than one year.

The big change in the Budget was raising the starting point for CTT from £50,000 to £55,000 with the promise that this will be index linked in future. The £55,000 threshold is cumulative, based on the last 10 years record of transfers, excluding the annual exemptions. All your gifts over the last 10 years are added up and any excess over the threshold becomes taxable.

## Thousands lose out on insurance overpayments

This year's higher national insurance contributions will soon begin to bite. With the increases will come the complaints about the ever-increasing burden. Yet surprisingly each year millions of pounds in national insurance contributions are paid unnecessarily.

The 100,000 or so people who find themselves in this position to very little about the "market" and are quite content to sit back and let the Department of Health and Social Security return the money later — usually much later. In some cases, the overpayments amount to hundreds of pounds.

How does this situation come about? An increasing number of people are taking second jobs, and in some cases even third jobs, to earn some extra cash to help make ends meet.

However, under the national insurance rules which came into operation in 1975, national insurance contributions have to be paid in every job whether you are an employee, self-employed, or have two or three jobs, this may mean paying contributions two or three times over.

The amounts involved can be large. Those earning £220 or more a week from April 6 will pay around £1,000 a year in national insurance contributions (or £19.25 a week). Anyone with earnings above this level in two jobs will pay more than is necessary unless they take action.

There is a maximum annual payment. This maximum varies according to circumstances — whether people are employees, or self-employed; whether they are contracted out of the state pension arrangements or not. But as a

# FRAMLINGTON RECOVERY

The new unit trust for investors seeking high rewards from recovery situations

FRAMLINGTON Recovery Trust will aim for maximum capital growth through investment in recovery situations.

These arise when, for one reason or another, a company falls to a level where they are exceptionally cheap. When the company does "recover", perhaps with a change of market conditions or as a result of sharp management action, those who bought when the shares were cheap stand to do very well.

With an individual company there is of course a risk that the recovery may never take place. This is why a unit trust is such a good vehicle for investing in recoveries. Because it invests in a wide spread of recovery situations a unit trust can shrug off the occasional casualty. The potential rewards from the successes can be very high.

Recovery trusts run by other unit trust groups have done well in the past; the managers believe that a recovery fund run by Framlington should give outstanding results in the future.

Timing. In the opinion of the managers this is a good time to invest. Recovery funds tend to do exceptionally well when the economy as a whole is pulling out from recession.

Flexibility. The trust will invest primarily in UK shares, but will not be limited by geographical area, size of company or market sector.

Track record. Last December the Observer chose us as Unit Trust Managers of the Year, noting our "enviable record of long-term results". The March issue of Money Management comments "Best management group in 1981, without a shadow of a doubt, is Framlington, which has collected number 1 rankings for all its funds over both the one year and the three year periods". Over five years, funds under management have grown from £5.5 million to £68 million.

Personal involvement. Framlington funds are run by the individual manager, not by committee. Recovery Trust will be managed by Antony Milford, whose other funds include our highly successful Inter-

national Growth Fund and Framlington Income Trust, the best performing income trust over the last ten years.

Value for money. The annual charge is at the standard Framlington rate, still only 1.2% + VAT. The trust deed includes powers to increase this to a maximum of 1% if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 5%. When units are sold back to us, payment is normally made on the day we receive the renounced certificate.

The estimated initial gross starting yield is 4%. However, since the investment policy is to aim for pure capital growth, investors may feel that accumulation units in which the net income is reinvested are more appropriate than income units from which net income is distributed.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Units in Framlington Recovery Trust are available at 50p each until 3 pm on Friday 16th April 1982. The minimum initial investment is 1,000 units, which cost £500. From 17th April units will be available at the ruling offer price.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Applications will be acknowledged by the managers, Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. For the initial offer contract notes are not issued; an application form must be used, accompanied by a cheque, from 19th April units can be bought by post or telephone in the usual way.

The minimum initial investment is £500. Units may be bought and sold daily. Prices and yields are published daily in leading newspapers.

Income net of basic rate tax is distributed to holders of income units on 15th March and 15th September. The first distribution will be on 15th March 1982.

Completion of 1% + VAT is paid to qualified intermediaries.

The trust is an authorised unit trust controlled by Trust Deed. It ranks as a wider range security under the Trustee Investments Act, 1961. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc.

The managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-438 3181. Registered in England No 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

### INITIAL OFFER of units in Framlington Recovery Trust at 50.0p each until Friday 16th April 1982

To: Framlington Unit Management Limited, 64 London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ

I/we wish to invest the sum of £..... (minimum £500) in Framlington Recovery Trust and enclose a cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am/we are over 18.

For accumulation units in which net income is reinvested, please tick here:.....

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss).....

Full names.....

Address.....

Signature(s)..... Date.....

(Over applicants should fill in and enclose details separately)

### FRAMLINGTON RECOVERY TRUST

## World Cup offer to Woolwich investors

Woolwich Building Society launches a football competition on Monday offering investors with the society the chance to see England's first round matches in the 1982 World Cup.

The competition is based on "Spot the Ball" principles and will run until April 30. First prize is an all expenses paid trip for two to Bilbao, where England plays Czechoslovakia. France and Kuwait. Runners up will receive 12 World Cup footballs signed by each member of England's team with a special local branch competition for a Kevin Keegan football.

Woolwich will also be selling World Cup fixture charts incorporating a photo-graph of the England football stars, with all profits going to the Variety Club of Great Britain. Charts will cost 40p but will be given free to investors opening an account.

Woolwich is also improving the terms on its higher interest shares which presently pay 1 per cent above the ordinary share rate.

Most building societies will be adjusting their rates on April 1 to take account of the recent interest rate cuts and the new ordinary share rate will be 8.75 per cent from that date but the notice period, presently three months, is to be reduced to a month. Investors wanting to make instant withdrawals will suffer 28 days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn. There are no penalties if the required notice is given.

## Thousands lose out on insurance overpayments

This year's higher national insurance contributions will soon begin to bite. With the increases will come the complaints about the ever-increasing burden. Yet surprisingly each year millions of pounds in national insurance contributions are paid unnecessarily.

The 100,000 or so people who find themselves in this position to very little about the "market" and are quite content to sit back and let the Department of Health and Social Security return the money later — usually much later. In some cases, the overpayments amount to hundreds of pounds.

How does this situation come about? An increasing number of people are taking second jobs, and in some cases even third jobs, to earn some extra cash to help make ends meet.

However, under the national insurance rules which came into operation in 1975, national insurance contributions have to be paid in every job whether you are an employee, self-employed, or have two or three jobs, this may mean paying contributions two or three times over.

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There is a maximum annual payment. This maximum varies according to circumstances — whether people are employees, or self-employed; whether they are contracted out of the state pension arrangements or not. But as a



Sir Herbert Ashworth

# Nationwide in action '81

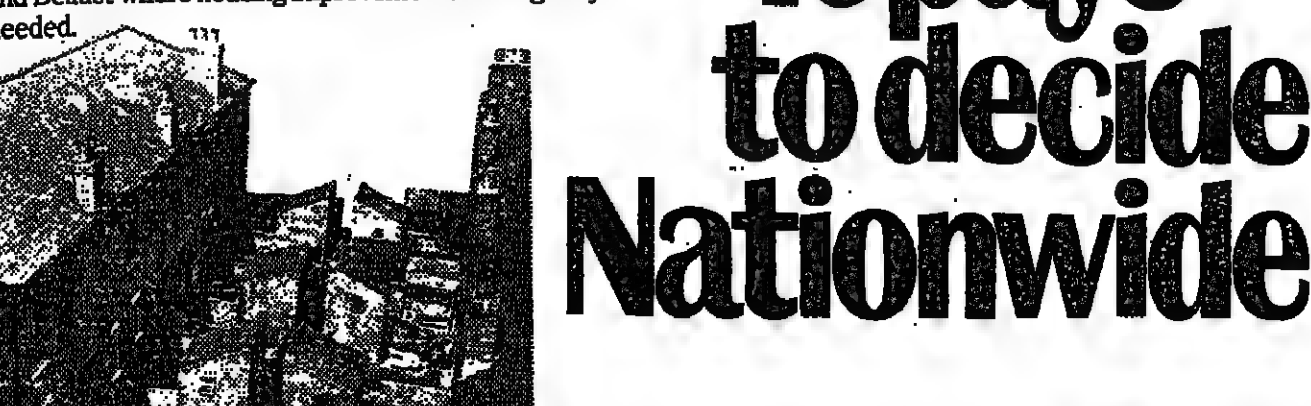
In his speech to members of the Society on March 26th 1982, Sir Herbert Ashworth, Chairman of Nationwide Building Society, reported on Nationwide's continued progress in 1981. "Nationwide achieved excellent results against a background of increasing competition for both savings and mortgage business."



Mortgage advances in 1981 totalled £1,026 million. We now help over 454,000 home buyers. Of our total of 64,000 new borrowers about half were first-time buyers. We advanced over £70 million for home improvements.

During 1981 our choice of savings schemes helped nearly 2.9 million investors — an increase of over 200,000 — make the most of their money. Gross investment receipts were £2,538 million and our total assets rose 15.7% to over £5,382 million — a record.

Nationwide is contributing to urban renewal programmes in the city centres of Liverpool, Manchester and Belfast where housing improvements are urgently needed.



We are continuing to assist in other areas of special housing need by working closely with local authorities, housing associations and builders. Nationwide is also playing an active part in the Financial Institutions Group set up by the Secretary of State for the Environment to study some of the housing problems in deprived urban areas.

Please call in at any of our 1,100 branches or agency branches for your free copy of our 1981 Report and details of our services for investors and borrowers.

**Nationwide Building Society**

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Brian Banks, Chairman  
Dunbar Fund Managers Limited  
53 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH  
Telephone: 01-930 2122

### National Savings Bank

Ordinary accounts — interest 5 per cent, first £70 of interest tax-free. Investment Account — 14 per cent, interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £200,000. Reducing to 14 per cent on April 1 and 13% on 1st May.

### Guaranteed Income Bonds

Return paid net of basic rate tax, higher rate taxpayers may have a further liability on maturity. Two years. General Portfolio Life — Eurofife 9.8 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Three years. General Portfolio 10.03 per cent net — minimum investment £500. Four years. American Life, 12.00-13.5 per cent (dependent on age) — minimum investment £1,000. Eurofife five years 12% min. investment £1,000.

### Building societies

Ordinary share accounts — 8.75 per cent. Term shares — 1 to 5 years, between 0.5 per cent and 2 per cent over the BSA recommended ordinary share rate depending on the term. Regular savings schemes — 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax, not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

### Foreign currency deposits

Interest paid without deduction of tax.

	notice	1 day	7 days
US dollar (call)	11% p.c.	11% p.c.	11% p.c.
Yen (2 days)	3% p.c.	3% p.c.	3% p.c.
D. Mark	5% p.c.	5% p.c.	5% p.c.
French Franc	26 p.c.	26% p.c.	26% p.c.
Swiss Franc	Nil p.c.	Nil p.c.	Nil p.c.

\* Rates quoted by Midland Bank — other banks may differ.

### Lombard North Central, the finance house subsidiary of NatWest

is offering 13 per cent on fixed-rate deposits of one, two and three years, and 12 per cent for four and five years. Minimum investment £1,000.







**By Jim Railton**

**RUGBY UNION**

**Ampleforth keep best until last**

**It may be late but it is not too far from the mark**

By David Davies

Ampleforth, the last of the 10 teams to play in the 1995-96 season, have secured a place in the final of the 1996-97 season.

The organization behind the World Cup proposal is sports sponsorship giant International Sports Sponsorship, which has been led by three of the game's big names: Ian Faxon, Jim Renwick and Roger Baird, who helped cut Wales to shreds last weekend, and who were also in the line-up. There would have been a fifth if Ian Faxon had not been injured in Cardiff. Add to the brew Keith Fiddes, who has been the driving force behind international through illness, and it amounts to a potent attacking machine.

Even Faxon, another Scottish cap this season, is one of the

[illegible]

four games on their seven-match tour. However, the Springfield forward power was not expected to be a factor. The touring side was likely to rob the record of its meaning.

The Malvernians, losing to the Bears in the opening 15-13, then leading 15-13, then showed themselves to be the better servers, especially in the second half. The Bears' forward line, led by the scrum-half, Stone, had the correct strike but failed to hit his weight and then left behind the scrum-half, who was not in the right low position to strike the ball low.

Widdows and Fennema)	10	10	has been one dead heat.
6 H J Giles (Surrey Castle	13	10	
and Corpus Green)			
7 S M Phipp (Sydney and	15	3	* Oxford are seeking their
Downing)			seventh successive win today.
8 C D Heard (St Andrews and	14	10	
Leam)			* Cambridge hold the record
7 E M G Pearson (Kemp 12			number of successive wins, 11
Canterbury and Jesus)			between 1924 and 1936.
Str 9 J M Phipps (Dunbarrow and	11	5	
Queens)			
Coat 1 P Barnham (City of London	10	2	* Oxford's Boris Rankov hopes
and Fennema)			to become the first crisman to
and Fennema)	13	34	win five Royal Races.

At 14-5 Malvern had their first match point. Small saved it with a shot that landed in the middle of the back wall and floor. Bailey saved the next one with a beautiful shot. The next two were hand in. The third match point and Bailey halted them with a shot off the wood.

Malvern looked anxious until Mason split the Clintons with a shot round the wall and down the middle of the corner.

## Squash rackets

The British Open squash rackets championship, sponsored by Audi Cars, will begin at Bromley, Kent, on Monday, Rex Bellamy writes. The qualifying competition will be played today

□ No one has earned more marks for her performance in the Under section of this week's Sab's finals at Woking Leisure Centre than Clare Wood Sussex, Levine Mair writes.

Having defeated Dorsees Frances Coudridge in her first match, she yesterday accounted

[illegible]

**By David Hands**

The organization behind the World Cup proposal is sports sponsorship giant International Cricket Council (ICC). The ICC has the lines of the successful cricket competition would include England, Australia, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, as well as New Zealand, Australia and Fiji. If political considerations made South African participation a possibility, it would be one of the emerging nations to fill the

Only Malvern had time to struggle before their pair, Mason and Stenhouse, were out of the ring. Their pair, Bailey and Small, by 16-15, 15-13, 15-11, 15-10.

The Malvernians, posing the first game, by leading 15-13, then showed themselves to be the better servers, especially in the backhand strokes. The pair of Sten, had the correct stroke but failed to hit his weight and the left handed Mason, who was a better server, went down the middle of the court.

But, that the left lo-

At 14-6 Malvern had their first match point. Small saved it with a backhand winner. Bailey saved the next one with a backhand winner. Malvern had their third match point when Bailey hit a backhand winner and Bailey halted them with a shot off the wood.

But Malvern looked anxious until Mason split the Stenhouse with a short round the net. The pair went down the middle of the court.

of the court.

[illegible]

by representatives of the Ski Club of  
es and U to upper.

A World Cup for rugby is more than just a pipe dream. Plans to stage such a competition in Britain in 1985 have been put to the four home unions and could mean a £6m boost for the world's leading rugby nations, with 200,000 spectators and 100,000 pools on an all-play-all basis, the Barbarians would then face a strong and knowledgeable looking Borderers VII in the last round but one on Sunday. Borderers have arrived here late but not late.

The organization behind the World Cup proposal is sports sponsorship giant International Sports Sponsorship, which has been led by three of the game's big names: Ian Faxon, Jim Renwick and Roger Baird, who helped cut Wales to shreds last weekend, and who were also in the line-up. There would have been a fifth if Ian Faxon had not been injured in Cardiff. Add to the brew Keith Fiddes, who has been the driving force behind international through illness, and it amounts to a potent attacking machine.

Even Faxon, another Scottish cap this season, is one of the

Africa go into the first international against the South American jaguars at the Loftus Versfeld ground tomorrow conscious of the dangers posed by the mercurial visitors. The Springboks are expected to

[illegible]

**By Roy McKelvie**

but he got into a tangle with anything that bounced high.

The final game was exciting after Mason, with a good bout of serving, put Malvern 11-3 ahead.

**RESULTS:** Professional Cup: First round Stan Ford C Walkley, J Lewis beat Rugby (0 Nilsidey, P Gow) 15-5, 15-7, 15-5, 17-16. Tombridge (T Shaw, A Willett) beat Clifton (C Adams, A Mollat) 15-5, 10-15, 15-8, 15-10. 15-4 Second round: Harrow (J Ford, M Paul

At 14-5 Malvern had their first match point. Small saved it with a shot that landed in the middle of the back wall and floor. Bailey saved the next one with a beautiful shot. The next two were hand in. The third match point and Bailey halted them with a shot off the wood.

Malvern looked anxious until Mason split the Clintons with a shot round the wall and down the middle of the corner.

	Depth (cm)	Conditions		Weather (5 pm)	
	L	U	Piste Off	Runs to resort	
Andermatt	125	360	Piste Good	Varied	Good
Spring snow on south slopes					
Isola 2000	160	195	Good	Varied	Fair
					Fine

[illegible]















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ASTON V8

3-3-6 HIGHWAY

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# Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Davale

BBC 1 BBC 2 TV/LONDON Radio 4

**6.25 Open University:** Let There Be Music: 6.50 The Baby Street Kids: 7.15 The Madonna of San Blas: 7.30 Poldark: 8.05 Colonialism in Reverse: 8.20 The Thirties: Comedy: 9.05 The Do-It-Yourself Film Animation Show: Bob Godfrey's guide to cartoon-making: 9.30 Swap Shop: Noel Edmonds's final appearance in this show. Guests include Richard Stilgoe, Barry Took, Dalia Smith, B. A. Robertson, 12.15 Grandstand. The line-up is: 12.20 Football Focus: 12.50 Racing from Newbury: 1.05 Round-up: 1.20 Newbury racing: 1.40 University Boat Race preview: 1.50 Newbury racing: 2.10 The 125th Anniversary Boat Race: 2.55 Newbury Racing: 3.15 International Badminton: The John Player All-England Championships, from Wembley Arena. A team from China are making their debut: 3.45 Half-time scores.

**6.25 Open University:** Childhood in Victorian literature: 6.50 Non-Euclidean Geometry: 7.15 Maths: 7.40 Ezra Pound: 8.05 Man-powered aircraft: 8.30 Interpreting dreams: 8.55 Year of change: 9.20 The Gambler: 9.45 Social Work in Schools: 10.10 Crust and Mantle: 10.35 Strawberry Hill: 11.00 Maths: 11.25 A Fall for Space: 11.50 Cognitive Maps: 12.15 Computing: 12.40 New Bearings for Old: 1.05 Court Portraits: 1.30 The National Theatre: 1.55 Farming: 2.20 Family and Handicap: 2.45 Frequency Response: 3.10 Film: The Sea Hawk (1940). Swashbuckling spectacle with Errol Flynn and Flora Robson as Elizabeth I.

**6.25 Sesame Street:** with The Muppets: 9.35 Space 1999: The Moon is in danger. With Martin Landau (r): 10.30 Ties: nifty fun for the young viewer: 12.15 World of Sport. The line-up is: 12.20 On the Ball (football round-up): 12.45 Squash: The Patrick International Festival. The women's singles final: 1.05 Cycling (Milan - San Remo): 1.15 News from ITN: 1.20 The TV Six: We see (from Heathrow) the 1.30, 2.00 and 2.30 (from Doncaster) the 1.45, 2.15 and the 2.55: 3.10 Speedway: The Premiership, from Ipswich Stadium. It's Ipswich Whizzies versus Cradley Heathens. 3.30Squash (men's singles final of the Patrick International festival): 3.45 Half-time results.

**6.25 Shipping Forecast.** 6.30 News. 6.50 Yours Faithfully. Religious affairs. 7.00 Today's Papers. 7.15 On Your Mark. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 8.00 News. 8.10 Today's Papers. 8.15 Sport on 4. Sports magazine. 8.45 News in Pictures. 9.05 News. 9.15 News. 9.25 News. 9.35 News. 9.45 News. 9.55 News. 10.05 News. 10.15 News. 10.25 News. 10.35 News. 10.45 News. 10.55 News. 11.05 News. 11.15 News. 11.25 News. 11.35 News. 11.45 News. 11.55 News. 12.05 News. 12.15 News. 12.25 News. 12.35 News. 12.45 News. 12.55 News. 1.05 News. 1.15 News. 1.25 News. 1.35 News. 1.45 News. 1.55 News. 2.05 News. 2.15 News. 2.25 News. 2.35 News. 2.45 News. 2.55 News. 3.05 News. 3.15 News. 3.25 News. 3.35 News. 3.45 News. 3.55 News. 4.05 News. 4.15 News. 4.25 News. 4.35 News. 4.45 News. 4.55 News. 5.05 News. 5.15 News. 5.25 News. 5.35 News. 5.45 News. 5.55 News. 6.05 News. 6.15 News. 6.25 News. 6.35 News. 6.45 News. 6.55 News. 7.05 News. 7.15 News. 7.25 News. 7.35 News. 7.45 News. 7.55 News. 8.05 News. 8.15 News. 8.25 News. 8.35 News. 8.45 News. 8.55 News. 9.05 News. 9.15 News. 9.25 News. 9.35 News. 9.45 News. 9.55 News. 10.05 News. 10.15 News. 10.25 News. 10.35 News. 10.45 News. 10.55 News. 11.05 News. 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